John Diego Attao re-nominated to CEC. PAGE 2
June is CNMI Pride Month. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FOR PURPOSE OF RESTRUCTURING

IPI granted $400K loan

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC director Howyo Chi appears before the Commonwealth Casino Commission yesterday to give updates on current bankruptcy proceedings.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After many losses, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC finally caught a break with the NMI bankruptcy court approving the casino investor's request for debtor-in-possession, DIP, financing allowing an interim withdrawal of $400,000 that would go toward restructuring.

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Casino Commission held a board meeting to discuss updates on IPI's Chapter 11 Bankruptcy petition.

IPI director Howyo Chi appeared before the commission and informed them that IPI gained a small win yesterday during its bankruptcy hearing before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona after she approved IPI's DIP financing request and approved an interim withdrawal of $400,000 from a $7-million loan IPI recently secured.

"The court approved the initial DIP financing for the interim $400,000 withdraw. So, we will be able to obtain that financing and have the lender send us the $400,000," said Chi.

Essentially, IPI managed to secure a $7-million loan from a Hong

See IPI on Page 4

Watson now CUC executive director

Watson

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has named its former deputy executive director, Kevin Watson, its new executive director after professional engineer Christopher Theisen withdrew his acceptance of CUC's offer.

During CUC's regular board meeting yesterday, the CUC board officially announced that Watson

See WATSON on Page 4

NWS: Ewiniar poses no threat to N. Marianas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam says Typhoon Ewiniar (formerly Invest 93W), sits well west of the Marianas.

Ewiniar poses no threat to the CNMI, Guam, Republic of Palau, or Yap State as it heads generally northeastward into the North Pacific. It may cross over the far western part of the NWS Marianas Area of Responsibility requiring public advisories to be issued every 6 hours while

See EWINIAR on Page 4

Tang, Park lead largest ever MHS graduating class

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A total of 380 Marianas High School students graduated last Wednesday in the Dolphin Class of 2024 graduation ceremony in Susupe, prompting MHS principal Jonathan Aguon to say it's the largest graduating class in MHS' 55-year

See TANG on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Donned in blue, Marianas High School graduates prepare to receive their diplomas during their commencement ceremony last Wednesday at the school's campus in Susupe.

PONY TANG
Valedictorian

BOMEE PARK
Salutatorian

INSIDE

LOCAL

Forty-two high school seniors of Tinian High School were conferred their high school diplomas on Monday afternoon, with Clarize Paraiso Rodriguez named the class valedictorian and Joseph Romaldo Hofschneider Santos Jr. the salutatorian.

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BUSINESS

The newest addition to the CNMI's dental healthcare landscape held successful dental health presentations at William S. Reyes Elementary School last May 20 and Saipan International School last May 21.

PAGE 13

NATION

The jury in Donald Trump's hush money trial is to resume deliberations Thursday after asking to rehear potentially crucial testimony about the alleged hush money scheme at the heart of the history-making case.

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Local

John Diego Attao re-nominated to CEC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has recommended the renomination of John Diego Attao to the Commonwealth Election Commission to represent Tinian.

Last week, Palacios sent a letter to Senate President Edith Delon Guerrero (D-Saipan) recommending the renomination of Attao to the CEC board as a representative of the Second Senatorial District—Tinian.

"Pursuant to 1 CMC section 6102, I am pleased to re-nominate Mr. John Diego Attao to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the Second Senatorial District. This appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate," said Palacios.

Should Attao be renominated to the CEC board he will serve a four-year term expiring on July 21, 2028.

"If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term, expiring on July 21, 2028, as the Election Commission terms are staggered. Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and I are confident that Mr. Attao is qualified and will be an asset on this important commission. If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We respectfully request your favorable action on Mr. Attao's renomination," said Palacios.

Meanwhile, in a letter to Attao, Palacios says he believes that he will be an invaluable asset to the community as a CEC board member.

"Lt. Gov. Apatang and I have complete confidence in your unwavering commitment to serving the best interests of our people. We greatly appreciate your willingness to continue serving on this critical board, and we are confident that your time and efforts will be invaluable to our community," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Commonwealth Election Commission is mandated by law to have nine commissioners, who shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. However, in order to have a quorum, the same election law only requires five

See CEC on Page 4

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June is CNMI Pride Month

LEIGH GASES

Community members, dignitaries, and advocates pose for a group photo with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, seated front row, after the proclamation signing of June 2024 as CNMI Pride Month yesterday morning at the Micro Beach pavilion.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang designated the month of June as CNMI Pride Month in a proclamation signing yesterday at the Micro Beach pavilion.

They were joined by local dignitaries, advocates, and members of the community.

The proclamation was read by Marianas High School's Dolphin Pride Club members Leilani Attao, Yu Xin Lucy Chen, Yejin Son Jenny Zhang, Jandi Rei Aguilar, and Sharon Calamaan.

Before the signing, Roberto Santos of Pride Marianas said, "It's monumental that we're all out here as a community outdoors in the Marianas to make it known that we celebrate love and we value life here."

LEIGH GASES

From left, Pride Marianas' Roberto Santos and Marianas High School's Dolphin Pride Club during the proclamation signing of June 2024 as CNMI Pride Month yesterday morning at the Micro Beach pavilion.

He then called attention to the ongoing genocide in Palestine and other conflicts going on around the world. He said, "This is part of the pride movement. It's called intersectionality. Pride is the antidote. Pride calls for these celebrations of people, women, trans people, black people, indigenous people. So, let our prayers, our meditations, and our intentions be as strategic and specific as our words…"

Then, the proclamation began with, "whereas, the CNMI, a vibrant culture founded on the spirit of *inafa'maolek*, has built on remarkable progress to uplift, center, and support Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex, Agender, Non-Binary, and other queer identities of our 2SLGBTIA+ communities across generations, spanning every sexual orientation and gender identity."

It ended with, "whereas, everyone is called to action and plays a part in creating braver safer spaces that embraces diversity, inclusivity, amplifies, and empowers our youth so that they may lead the way, and, whereas with this declaration, our Commonwealth commits to ensuring that prejudice, discrimination, and ignorance have no place. Instead, we choose love that sees no bounds."

At the end of the proclamation signing, Palacios said, "we have evolved into a more inclusive society and inclusive community."

He added, "I'm proud of myself that I have learned how to reach out and continue to understand... Some of the [LGBTQIA+ people] are our family members and they are some of the most intelligent and caring individuals. They do continue to struggle—there is some social stigma, but we're evolving as a society to be a more understanding community."50

2024 CNMI Pride Month events will be posted on their social media pages Facebook: Pride Marianas and Instagram: @PrideMarianas670.

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DPS sets car seat, occupant protection checkpoints today

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
Chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to ensure road safety across the islands, the CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a series of Occupant Protection/Child Restraint checkpoints today, May 31, at Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Pale Arnold, and Chalan Lau Lau.

The first checkpoints will be from 5pm to 6:15pm. DPS will set up on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya, targeting the westbound lane near CUC Waterloo.

Following this, a second checkpoint will be established on Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, on the southbound lane by Ambyth Shipping, running from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

Each checkpoint will operate for 75 minutes, strategically placed to maximize coverage and efficiency. The primary objective of these checkpoints is to enforce proper seat belt and child car seat usage on the highways.

In line with DPS' commitment to road safety, these scheduled checkpoints serve to detect, deter, and identify any instances of improper seat belt or child car seat usage. Motorists are urged to comply with all traffic regulations and safety measures to ensure the well-being of themselves and their passengers.

WATSON

From page 1

has been hired as the new executive director following Thiesen's withdrawal earlier this month.

Watson, who has been with CUC for about two years now, will serve in his new capacity starting June 1, for the next two years.

As for contract details, Watson received the same offer previously given to Thiesen; a $200,000 annual salary, $2,000 housing allowance for one year, and a $1,000 car allowance for two years.

Watson, in an interview, stated that it's an honor and a privilege to be named CUC's executive director and it is a challenge he is looking forward to undertaking.

"We have a long way to go but I'm sure, with the quality of staff we have, we be able to meet all of our goals and objectives; one of them being fulfillment of the current stipulated orders. We've made a lot of progress already and we will continue to do so. Its going to be a challenge, but it's not insurmountable," he said.

In terms of priorities, Watson said he intends to tackle the stipulated orders issued by the federal court ensuring affordable power for CNMI consumers, and ensuring quality water is provided throughout the Commonwealth.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From page 1

Kong-based financing institution. However, DIP financing through the court is needed to ensure that should IPI fail in its attempt to restructure and must liquidate all assets to pay off creditors, the lender and its loan is given priority.

"We have secured the funding, but because no creditor is going to lend IPI money on an unsecured basis knowing IPI has a $200-million debt, they want to get ahead of that $200-million debt," Chi explained.

Of the $7-million loan, the court approved DIP financing for $400,000.

Of the $400,000, Chi said half will be paid to the Department of Public Lands for its lease of the land on which the resort and casino was built on.

The other half will go toward salaries and administrative expenses.

"We are glad that the court has approved the interim $400,000. The remaining $6.6 million of the $7-million financing we requested is going to be heard on June 21," Chi said.

The June 21 hearing is essentially for the court to either approve or deny IPI's loan of the remaining $6 million.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

EWINIAR

From page 1

passing through CNMI waters, according to NWS.

NWS also states that although dry conditions remain in place throughout the midweek, a possible uptick in showers can be expected toward the end of the week.

According to NWS' weekly regional outlook, weak ridging (high atmospheric pressure) will keep dry conditions in place across the Marianas at least through midweek with a possible uptick in showers later this week.

"Mostly sunny skies and fair weather prevail across Guam and the CNMI, with moderate trades and only a few spotty showers. Deeper moisture will keep south of the Marianas a few days, but could approach the region later in the week. Expect combined seas of 3 to 5 feet on the coastal waters, perhaps with a long-period northwest swell building in from Typhoon Ewiniar later this week," said NWS.

As for the rest of the region, NWS forecasts relatively fair weather is expected through the weekend at Yap and Palau with variably cloudy skies and some showers as weak surface troughs push through the region.

"Not necessarily a dry week ahead, passing showers will bring continued relief for current and ongoing dry conditions. Combined seas on the waters will be around 3 to 5 feet. Farther east, across Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro, an active ITCZ is generating showers and thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Chuuk, while drier weather is found near Kosrae and Majuro. Showers and thunderstorms at Chuuk and Pohnpei will ease up by midweek, but weak surface troughs will bring passing showers across most locations this week. Combined seas will be around 4 to 6 feet," said NWS.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TANG

From page 1

history during his welcoming remarks.

With 380 in the MHS Class of 2024, the ceremony was held outdoors to accommodate all family members, friends, and special guests in attendance.

Leading the MHS Class of 2024 as they turned their tassels was valedictorian Pony Kaile Tang and salutatorian Bomee Park, with the Board of Education Award going to Tang and the Commissioner's Award to Park.

The Governor's Leadership Award went to Jane Nicole Cuevas Mozunder, the Lt. Gov. Award went to Juruel Neilan Pablico Magtalas. Arnel Josh Valladolid Coloma received the Mayor's Award. The Outstanding Female Graduate Award was given to Destiny Jade Cabrera Pangelinan and the Principal's Award was given to Tralisia Dewonee Golston. Tang was also the recipient of the Dolphin Award.

Top 10 students were Tang, Park, Joseph Victor Bartolome Jimenez, Raja Liu Sevugan, Aiyana Jade Reyes Manglona, Juruel Neilan Pablico Magtalas, Kaitlyn Salazar Punzalan, Cindy Ting Ma, Jane Nicole Cuevas Mozunder, and IG Kamiya Nicole Nosa Obnimaga.

Other awards were also given such as the English Language Arts Department awards to Raja Liu Sevugan, Juruel Neilan Pablico Magtalas, and Kaitlyn Salazar Punzalan. The Language Other than English Dept. awards went to Ashley Kaye Muleta, Hana Rhys Laxamana Diaz, while the Mathematics Dept. Award went to Joseph Victor Bartolome Jimenez, and Pony Kaile Tang. Tang and Jayden Joo-Ho Shin were also the recipient of the Science Dept. Award. The Social Studies Dept. Award went to Shin and Jimenez. Physical Education awards went to Taiyo Akimaru and Leonardo Isidro Lee Tudela Tenorio. The Outstanding Male Athlete Award went to Mokyang Kim and the Outstanding Female Athlete Award to Destiny Jade Cabrera Pangelinan. The JROTC Dept. awards went to Edgar Aaron Nellasca Tuazon, and Paulo Jerome Niniano Quidato. Career Technical Education Dept. Awards went to Tyana Mizutani Cepeda and Jonathan Wen Jie Yue Sheu.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CEC

From page 2

members to be present, with at least one member from each senatorial district being present.

There are two vacant commissioner position for the Second Senatorial District of Tinian. The position was previously held by Jonathan C. Manglona and John Diego Attao.

There are three vacant commissioner positions for the Third Senatorial District of Saipan. The positions were previously held by Doris Aldan-Atalig, Jesus S. Cepeda, and Henry Emery L. Kaipat. The current Saipan commissioners are CEC chair Jesus I. Sablan and Remedio Sablan.

Rota has no vacant position. Rota's current commissioners are Esther A. Yatar and Lelanie I. Manglona.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-026

CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION & GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent's obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(05/07/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- **Localgov Contract**

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
1) **Senate Standing Committee Report No. 23-84 RE: Executive Reappointment of Dr. Martin P. Rohringer for HCPLB Board**

X. Old Business
- **Proposed Amendments to Regulations for Licensed Professional Counselors**
- **Proposed Amendments to Regulations for Social Workers**

XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- Total Reviewed = _____ New Applications = _____
- Renewal = _____ Pending = _____

XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- B. Bost (Physician Application
- A. Zigman Complaint
- Monitoring Review of N.K.

XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

Rota SBDC hosts Cybersecurity for Small Businesses, Federal Contracting 101 training

ROTA—The Rota Small Business Development Center is proud to announce the successful completion of its inaugural Cybersecurity for Small Businesses training in the Municipality of Rota, held on Thursday, May 23, 2024. This no-cost training was designed to enhance the cybersecurity awareness and capabilities of local entrepreneurs, providing them with practical and affordable tools to protect their businesses from potential cyber threats.

Herman M. Kintol, owner of KRS Cyberworx, led the afternoon session, where he focused on the importance of awareness to potential cyberhackers and offered strategies to better position businesses to combat these threats. Trainees were educated on the latest cybersecurity practices, empowering them to safeguard their digital assets and maintain secure business operations in an increasingly digital world. Kintol highlighted small businesses as the most vulnerable to cyberattacks, sharing some actual events within our region that negatively impacted both public and private sector agencies who fell victim to cybercrime within recent history. Kintol commended the participants, applauding them for their ability to recognize the potential threat of not practicing good cybersecurity hygiene, and realizing the need to take proactive measures to protect their small businesses as more and more businesses become targets of cyberattacks nationwide.

Earlier in the day, the training series included a Federal Contracting 101 session facilitated by Boris Hertslet, program manager of the Guam APEX Accelerator. The morning's session focused on navigating the registration process in federal government procurement site SAM.gov, and developing effective Capabilities Statements, crucial for local businesses looking to secure government contracts.

Hertslet was also on Saipan the day before conducting the same training for Saipan-based businesses looking to further expand their economic opportunities toward bidding for federal contracts. Hertslet highlighted critical information on taking advantage of the various SBA-recognized certifications that can directly impact a business' ability to gain preferential points in the federal procurement process.

CNMI SBDC

Training participants pose for a group photo with Cybersecurity Expert & Business owner Herman M. Kintol.

Rota SBDC continues to play a pivotal role in the economic development of the island of Rota by offering high-quality training and resources. The collaboration with experts like Kintol and Hertslet ensures that Rota local businesses receive the best guidance and support available.

Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, network director of the CNMI SBDC, expressed satisfaction with the successful turnout and positive feedback from participants stating, "These training sessions are a vital part of our commitment to support and develop local businesses. By positioning themselves effectively for federal contracts and enhancing their cybersecurity measures, these businesses are better equipped to contribute to and benefit from the economic opportunities within our region amidst an ongoing military buildup."

For more information about upcoming training sessions and resources, contact the CNMI SBDC Network at (670) 237-6888 or visit our website at www.cnmisbdc.com. ***(PR)***

CNMI SBDC

Training participants join program manager of the Guam APEX Accelerator Boris Hertslet and members of the CNMI SBDC team for a group photo.

SUPREME COURT
THE JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF PALAU

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Telephone: Koror : (680) 488-2607/4979/3331 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2330/2482/2607 • Facsimile: Koror (680) 488-1597 or
Capitol: (680) 767-2606
E-mail address: judiciary@palausupremecourt.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024 **Closing date: June 5, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY**

Position(s):

(1) Staff Engineer **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

(1) STAFF ATTORNEY **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

(1) COMPTROLLER **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

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BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Emma Chong to interview White House official at Upwell Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Friends of the Mariana Trench and EarthEcho International are thrilled to announce that Saipan activist Emma Chong, an incoming freshman at Northern Marianas College, will interview White House Council on Environmental Council chair Brenda Mallory at the upcoming Upwell Ocean Justice Conference in Washington, D.C. on June 4, 2024 at 11:45am.

Chong will engage in a thought-provoking conversation with Mallory about the intersection of environmental justice and ocean policy, as well as her experiences as the first African American to lead the council on Environmental Quality.

About Emma Chong

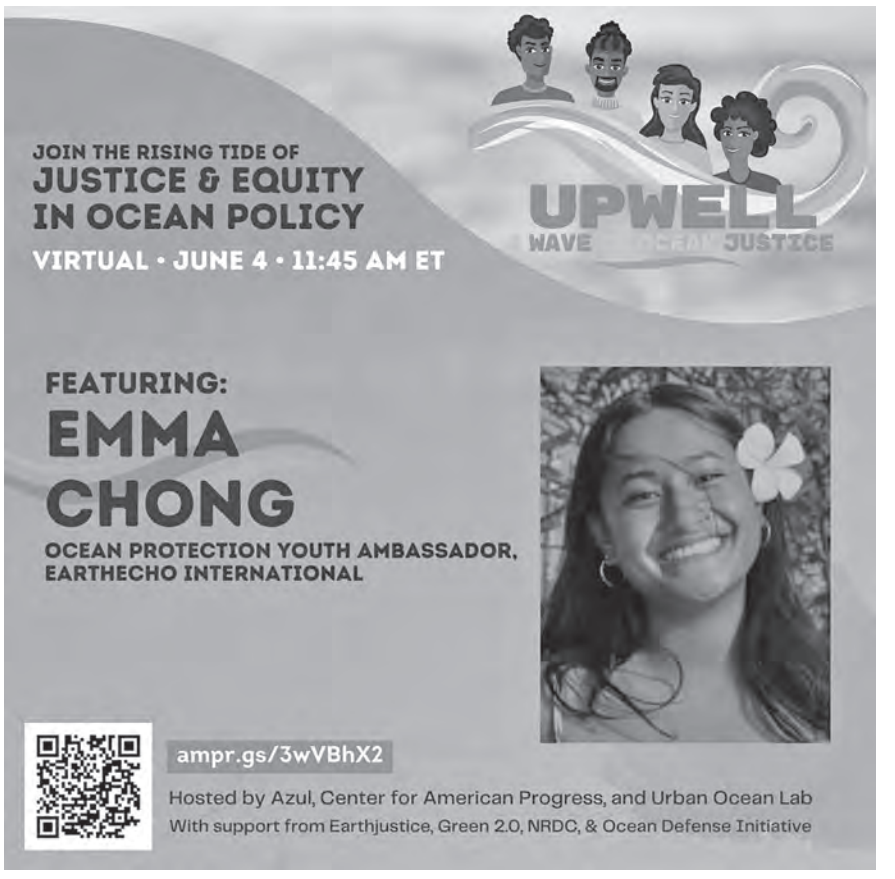
Chong has always possessed an affinity toward environmentalism and ocean conservation. Growing up in the Northern Marianas Islands and being of Indigenous descent has instilled a deep sense of giving back not only to her community but her surrounding natural environments. This fall Chong will pursue a degree in natural resource management at NMC and has plans to pursue higher education in marine science. Chong is currently serving as an EarthEcho International Ocean Protection Ambassador, collaborating with The Friends of the Mariana Trench to lead a community-based campaign to build support for ocean protection efforts.

About Brenda Mallory

Mallory, an American lawyer specializing in environmental law, currently serves as the 12th chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. She is the first African American to hold this position and advises the President on environmental and natural resources policies. Mallory's extensive career includes roles at the Southern Environmental Law Center, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Online registration for Upwell can be found here: https://www.americanprogress.org/events/upwell-a-wave-of-ocean-justice-online/.

The conference will also stream live on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFFpY7-ZEX4. ***(PR)***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UPWELL
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FEATURING:
EMMA CHONG
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ampr.gs/3wVBhX2
Hosted by Azul, Center for American Progress, and Urban Ocean Lab
With support from Earthjustice, Green 2.0, NRDC, & Ocean Defense Initiative

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby discloses that on December 11, 2023, **Julie S. Tebuteb,** an immediate family member of **Melvin M. Sablan,** an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **June 3, 2024.**

Dated this 17th day of May, 2024.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

WIC CNMI

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

PO BOX 502509, Saipan MP 96950
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WIC CNMI
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• Nutrition counseling
• Breastfeeding support
• Healthy foods
• Referrals
Who is eligible?
• Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Postpartum women (up to 1 year)
• Infants
• Children under the age of five (5)
• Meet nutritional risk and financial guidelines. (See table below)
A pregnant woman is considered two (2) family members!
WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size (Effective May 1, 2024)
Family members in household | Yearly household income | Monthly household income | Twice-Monthly household income | Bi-Weekly household income | Weekly household income
1 | $27,861 | $2,322 | $1,161 | $1,072 | $536
2 | 37,814 | 3,152 | 1,576 | 1,455 | 728
3 | 47,767 | 3,981 | 1,991 | 1,838 | 919
4 | 57,720 | 4,810 | 2,405 | 2,220 | 1,110
5 | 67,673 | 5,640 | 2,820 | 2,603 | 1,302
6 | 77,626 | 6,469 | 3,235 | 2,986 | 1,493
7 | 87,579 | 7,299 | 3,650 | 3,369 | 1,685
8 | 97,532 | 8,128 | 4,064 | 3,752 | 1,876
Each additional member add | +$9,953 | +$830 | +$415 | +$383 | +$192
Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS income, meaning before taxes or other deductions. A person or certain family members who participate in other benefit programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.
Call us at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 to make an appointment!
www.chcc.health
This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 31, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Triple J Saipan, Inc.	04/19/2024 TMS-2022-035-A2	Construction of One (1) Additional Barracks	Marpo Heights, Tinian	Major Siting	Board Meeting 6/6/2024
2. Marianas Trekking LLC	4/30/2024 SLR-2023-040-R2	Commercial Kayaking, Canoeing, Stand-Up Paddleboard, & Snorkeling Activities	Grotto, Marine Beach, Paupau Beach, & Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/14/2024
3. Diving Shop Light House, Inc.	5/1/2024 SLR-2023-014-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions & Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/14/2024
4. Interpacific Resorts Saipan Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club	5/1/2024 SLR-2023-022-R2	Commercial Snorkeling, Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddleboard, Windsurfing, & Sailing Activities	San Antonio, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/14/2024
5. Yumiko N. Brundidge dba Nakas Diving Services	5/2/2024 SLR-2023-015-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/14/2024
6. 500 Sails, Inc.	5/2/2024 SLR-2024-040-R2	Sailing/Traditional Maritime Activities (Beach Canoes)	Lowerbase, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/16/2024
7. Sydney J. Takahashy dba Fish Guyz SCUBA & Charter	5/3/2024 SLR-2023-049-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
8. Aquatop Enterprises, Inc.	5/6/2024 SPlm-2024-043	DryDock	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 5/16/2024
9. Zen Corporation dba Aqua Marine Sports	5/8/2024 SLR-2023-034-R2	Commercial Snorkeling, Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddleboard, Hobie Cat, & Windsurfing Activities	Achugao, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/16/2024
10. Aqua Connections, Inc.	5/8/2024 SLR-2023-016-R2-A1	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Dive Site & Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
11. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	5/8/2024 SLR-2023-030-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
12. Shim Corporation dba Pro Divers Saipan	5/8/2024 SLR-2023-029-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
13. Saipan A-Venture, LLC. Dba Saipan Adventure	5/8/2024 SLR-2023-031-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/16/2024
14. How Yo Chi	5/9/2024 SSm-2024-044	Construction of Concrete Slab and Patio Canopy with Fence	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 5/22/2024
15. Hawaiian Rock Products Corporation dba Hawaiian Rock Products	5/10/2024 TMS-2024-045	Hawaiian Rock Products Quarry Expansion	Marpo Valley, Tinian	Major Siting	Certified Complete with Conditions* 5/30/2024
16. Buttonwood Corporation dba Pacific Star Diving Club	5/10/2024 SLR-2024-012-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
17. Buttonwood Corporation dba Marianas Water Sports	5/10/2024 SLR-2024-013-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
18. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	5/13/2024 SLR-2023-039-R2	Commercial Hobie Cat Sailing, Kayaking, Snorkeling, & Stand-Up Paddleboard Activities	Kensington Beach Front, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
19. Open Knowledge Systems, Inc. dba Lets Go Diving - Saipan	5/15/2024 SLR-2023-075-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/22/2024
20. Rota Mayor's Office	5/7/2024 RSm-2024-004	Gilita Chamorro Fiesta	Chamorro Village, Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 5/23/2024
21. Department of Public Lands (DPL)	5/15/2024 SS-2024-046	Former Low Tide Beach Bar Demolition	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 5/17/2024
22. Sea Peoples, LLC. dba Seungwoo Lee	5/16/2024 RLR-2024-005	Commercial SCUBA Diving & Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 5/29/2024
23. Marianas Seas Adventure, Inc. dba Masa Dive Saipan	5/17/2024 SLR-2023-050-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/22/2024
24. Thank You Saipan Corporation	5/17/2024 SLR-2023-028-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving & Instructions, Helmet Diving & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites and Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/29/2024
25. Thank You Saipan Corporation	5/17/2024 SLR-2023-072-R2	Commercial Parasailing & Banana Boat Operations	Saipan Lagoon & Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 5/29/2024
26. GPPC, Inc	5/20/2024 SLRm-2024-047	Staging & Stockpiling	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Application Under Review*
27. H J 2 Corporation dba Marine World	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-018-R2	Commercial Banana Boat & Jet Skis Operations	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
28. H J 2 Corporation dba Marine World	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-027-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete 5/28/2024
29. Mariana Global, Inc.	5/17/2024 SLR-2024-009-R2	Commercial Kayaking, Stand-Up Paddleboard, Snorkeling & Surfboarding	Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
30. Noriko Akari Baidya dba Sakura Saipan	5/20/2024 SLR-2023-065-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
31. Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)	5/22/2024 SSm-2024-048	2024 CNMI Ocean Month Sand Sculpting Competition	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Application Under Review*
32. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-048-R2	Commercial Parasailing, Water Jet crafts, Banana Boat, & Snorkeling Operations	Managaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
33. A.K.T., LLC.	5/23/2024 SLR-2024-049	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
34. Le Grand Bleu Inc.	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-025-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions & Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
35. B&J Corporation dba Dive Y2K	5/22/2024 SLR-2023-073-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operation & Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
36. Sakura CNMI Corp., dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/24/2024 SLR-2023-037-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Snorkeling & Kayaking Operations	Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan & Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
37. Sakura CNMI Corp dba Sakura Marine Sports	5/24/2024 SLR-2023-038-R2	Commercial Water-Jet Crafts & Wakeboarding Operations	All Designated Zones	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
38. Fengyi Zhang Williams dba Big Shark Marine Sports	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-032-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Water-Jet Craft, Kayaking & Snorkeling Operations	Kanoa/World Resort, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
39. Department of Public Lands (DPL)	5/28/2024 SS-2024-050	Micro-Hyatt Remediation Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Application Under Review*
40. H2M Saipan Corporation dba H2M Saipan Dive Center	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-070-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions & Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
41. Seahorse, Inc. dba Seahorse Tour	5/28/2024 SLR-2023-035-R2	Commercial Parasailing, Water-Jet Crafts, Banana Boat Operations	Managaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
42. Seahorse, Inc. dba Seahorse Tour	5/28/2024 SLR-2024-051	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review*
43. Atty Corporation dba Atty Dive	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-071-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
44. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-051-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instruction & Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
45. Phillips Corporation, Inc.	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-020-R2	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
46. Akhil Chandra Mollick dba Ichiban Marine Sports	5/29/2024 SLR-2023-046-R2	Commercial Banana Boat, Wakeboarding, Kayaking, & Snorkeling Operations	All Designated Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
47. United Front Co., LTD. Dba Super Fish Diving	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-041-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving & Instructions & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
48. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	5/30/2024 SLR-2023-057-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Fasten your seat belts, folks. Turbulence is everywhere

All frequent flyers have heard the pilot's admonition, which usually goes something like this: "We recommend you keep your seat belts fastened while you are in your seats, just as we do in the cockpit. Unexpected turbulence can occur at any time."

Unexpected turbulence occurred all right on Singapore Airlines Flight SQ321 from London's Heathrow Airport to Singapore. Tuesday's severe weather shakes were so severe as the plane crossed over Thailand that most anyone who was seated without a fastened seat belt was rapidly propelled toward the ceiling. The disturbance injured some 70 people and cost a 73-year-old British man, embarking on what was to be a vacation of a lifetime, his life. The plane suddenly plunged some 6,000 feet, as numerous aircraft tracker sites have vividly shown. That's a long way to fall, and those passengers on that Boeing 777 jet must have been glad to deplane in Bangkok.

Nobody wants to restrict people from moving about an airline cabin and getting the blood flowing, especially on very long flights. And turbulence, especially turbulence coming without warning, is hardly ever this severe.

Nonetheless, it costs you little to listen to your friendly pilots and keep that lap belt at least loosely fastened while seated at all times, even when the seat-belt light is off. That likely would be enough to keep you in your seat during this kind of incident, rather than finding yourself flying through the air. Given the remarkable safety of the U.S. aviation system in particular, turbulence is the biggest health risk passengers face, and seat belts are a formidable defense against injury.

Just as they are in a car.

©2024 Chicago Tribune.

With Democratic assent, House votes to open loopholes in crypto regulation

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Money, as we all know, is the mother's milk of politics in America. It can look even more nourishing if you can manufacture it yourself.

That's surely what accounts for the solicitude that the cryptocurrency industry has been receiving from Congress.

The House on Wednesday passed a law reducing regulation of crypto, despite ample evidence that the asset class has been a haven for fraudsters, extortionists and worse.

The law will "make the United States safer for drug traffickers, for terrorist funders, for child and drug traffickers and those who buy and sell child pornography," said Rep. Sean Casten, D-Ill., listing a few of the documented users of crypto in recent years. "I did not know those groups had such proud advocates in Congress."

Casten may find himself in the House minority in more ways than one. Crypto promoters have managed to peel several Democrats in the House and Senate away from the party's strong opposition to reducing regulations on the asset class.

Earlier this month, bipartisan majorities in both chambers voted to roll back a two-year-old Securities and Exchange Commission guideline for how financial institutions should account for crypto assets left in their care by customers. President Joe Biden said he would veto the change, and the majorities in neither chamber were large enough to overrule a veto.

The congressional crypto caucus handed the industry another victory Wednesday, when the House passed the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act, known as FIT21. The vote was 279 to 136, with 71 Democrats joining the Republican majority.

The measure's fate is unsure in the Senate, which hasn't yet taken it up. Biden has stated his opposition to FIT21 but hasn't promised a veto, which the crypto gang and its supporters seem to think is a big victory. Biden said that he was willing to negotiate a regulatory system that protects crypto consumers and investors without unduly interfering with innovation, but "further time will be needed."

If it becomes law, FIT21 would deliver to crypto promoters their most heartfelt desire: removing them from the jurisdiction of the powerful SEC and transferring oversight to the chronically underfunded and understaffed Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Their goal is understandable, since the SEC has been explicit about its intention to regulate crypto as securities, subjecting the asset class to the disclosure rules and safeguards against fraud that have made the traditional financial markets in the U.S. the safest in the world.

During Wednesday's floor debate, the bill's advocates talked of the virtues of freeing an innovative technology from "overzealous regulators"—that was Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., mouthing words that could have been dictated to her by crypto executives—and relieving them of "regulatory uncertainty."

SEC Chairman Gary Gensler put the latter claim to rest in a statement about FIT21 he issued Wednesday a few hours before the vote. "The crypto industry's record of failures, frauds, and bankruptcies is not because we don't have rules or because the rules are unclear," he stated. "It's because many players in the crypto industry don't play by the rules."

The bill's advocates tried to pump up the importance of crypto as a financial asset with claims that 20% of Americans are crypto owners. There's no evidence for this. On the contrary, the Federal Reserve has found that interest in crypto among ordinary Americans is weak and fading.

In its most recent survey of the economic condition of U.S. households, issued this month, the Fed determined that only 7% of Americans bought or held crypto as an investment (down from 11% in 2021) and only 1% had used it to buy anything or make a payment. That underscores the most important truth about crypto, albeit one its promoters seldom acknowledge: No one has yet identified a genuine purpose for crypto in the real world.

"The entities that stand to benefit from this bill are not ordinary investors trying to build wealth," Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., the ranking Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, said from the House floor Wednesday, "but rather the crypto firms. ... They have already made billions of dollars unlawfully issuing or facilitating the buying and selling of crypto securities."

Waters accurately described the effect of FIT21 as placing

See WITH on Page 9

Most older Americans who need hearing aids don't use them. Here's how to change that

By MARY C. WHITE
Los Angeles Times

Mary C. White is an adjunct professor of environmental health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, a Public Voices fellow at AcademyHealth in partnership with the OpEd Project and a former federal epidemiologist.

Having depended on hearing aids for nearly three decades, I'm astounded by the lack of Medicare coverage for devices that can solve a problem afflicting tens of millions of older Americans.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans over age 70 have some degree of hearing loss, and over half of those 75 and older experience impairment serious enough to be considered disabling. But most don't wear hearing aids.

Because the legislation that created Medicare nearly 60 years ago specifically excluded hearing aids, those who rely on the program's traditional coverage must pay for them out of pocket. That expense is among the chief barriers to wider use of the devices.

Age-related hearing loss impedes basic communication and the relationships that depend on it. Expanded access to hearing aids could therefore do no less than enable more older Americans to establish and maintain the social connections that are essential to a meaningful life.

Hearing loss is like an invisible, muffling curtain that falls in front of anyone speaking. Asking people to repeat themselves can yield irritated and hurtful responses. And it's hopeless to ask a soft-spoken person to speak up. Sometimes it's easier just to nod and smile.

Many older people I know choose to avoid social gatherings altogether because they can't hear well. Without hearing aids, I'd stay home too.

Hearing loss can harm one's health in other ways. For example, I've written about the need for a comprehensive approach to reducing cancer risk at older ages, including preventive services such as colorectal cancer screening. But these services rely on conversations between patients and their health care providers. An older patient's ability to hear and understand such conversations shouldn't be taken for granted or ignored.

The Food and Drug Administration did improve access to hearing aids by making some of them available without a prescription in 2022, but the over-the-counter devices are inadequate for serious hearing loss like mine. My private health insurance, meanwhile, started covering hearing aids a few years ago, providing up to $2,500 for them every five years. One hearing aid alone can cost that much or more, however.

Despite its limitations, my private coverage for hearing aids is better than nothing, which is what traditional Medicare provides.

Hearing loss is more common among lower-income people and those without advanced education. The toll from noisy workplaces compounds age-related hearing loss for some. One analysis found that most Americans with a serious hearing disability can't afford the typical price of hearing aids.

Many of the older adults who can't come up with these significant out-of-pocket expenses spent their working years in low-wage jobs that our country depends on. Denying them treatment for their hearing loss is a lousy way to treat people who gave years of service to our society.

Although some older adults with hearing loss won't benefit from hearing aids, Medicare coverage for the devices might encourage more beneficiaries to get their hearing tested so they can get the treatment that's right for them. And while Medicare coverage alone won't address the stigma some people associate with hearing aids, the availability of newer, more comfortable and less obvious technology might win over some refuseniks.

Legislation reintroduced with bipartisan support last year would finally correct this glaring gap in Medicare coverage by removing the hearing aid exclusion from the law. There's no reason to delay action on this any longer. Are our representatives listening?

WITH

From page 8

crypto effectively into a regulatory "no man's land." She described the bill as "an extreme MAGA libertarian approach, where companies can operate without regulatory scrutiny, and consumers and investors are on their own on detecting and avoiding fraudulent schemes."

What's most striking about the push for FIT21 is that it comes so closely on the heels of major scandals in the crypto space. Sam Bankman-Fried, the founder of the crypto firm FTX, was sentenced in March to 25 years in jail for crypto fraud, after having been convicted in November on seven federal counts related to fraud.

During the heyday of FTX, Bankman-Fried appeared before congressional committees to promote a tailor-made regulatory scheme for crypto bearing close resemblance to the one embodied in FIT21.

Just last month, Changpeng Zhao, founder of the international crypto firm Binance, was sentenced to four months in prison on federal money-laundering charges; Zhao had earlier agreed to pay a $50-million fine, and Binance settled the government case against it for $4.3 billion.

The SEC is pursuing a lawsuit against the crypto exchange Coinbase for selling unregistered securities. In March, federal judge Katherine Polk Failla denied the firm's motion to quash the case. Her reasoning effectively explains why FIT21 is not only unnecessary, but harmful: "The 'crypto' nomenclature may be of recent vintage," she wrote, "but the challenged transactions fall comfortably within the framework that courts have used to identify securities for nearly eighty years."

The counterweight to the arguments against FIT21 is cash—the green variety, not the notional type marketed by cryptocurrency firms. Three super PACs formed by crypto executives and investors have raised about $85 million to spend on 2024 political races.

The financial potency of this industry's campaign spending isn't in question. One of the PACs, Fairshake, spent more than $10 million over the last year in opposition to Rep. Katie Porter in her race for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate.

Porter was known as a strong critic of crypto. In 2022 she joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.—the most vociferous crypto critic on Capitol Hill—in an investigation of how crypto "mining" by computer had affected the energy grid in Texas and raised energy prices for consumers.

Porter lost the Senate race. Her victorious opponent in the primary, Rep. Adam Schiff, has taken a much more indulgent position toward crypto, listing it on his campaign website among the "new developments in technology ... we need to grow" in order to keep jobs and regulatory oversight in U.S. hands.

In the current congressional election cycle, Fairshake has made $702,300 in donations to Democratic campaigns and $551,700 to Republicans. Its largest single recipient is Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee and sponsor of FIT21. His campaign has received $126,626 even though he has announced that he is not running for reelection this year and retiring from Congress.

In his statement, Gensler tried to strengthen the lawmakers' understanding of the risks they were endorsing with the measure. The bill would "create new regulatory gaps and undermine decades of precedent" in the regulation of investment contracts, he wrote, "putting investors and capital markets at immeasurable risk."

It would allow crypto promoters to "self-certify" that their products lay outside traditional regulations and give the SEC only 60 days to respond. By removing crypto trading platforms from the regulatory structure overseeing stock and bond exchanges, it would open the door to conflicts of interest by reducing consumer protections against the platforms commingling their funds with client funds.

The bill also exempts crypto promoters from rules requiring risky investments to be offered only to accredited investors—those with a net worth of more than $1 million, not counting their primary residence, or income over $200,000 (for couples, $300,000) in each of the prior two years.

The cynical device FIT21 uses to neuter the SEC's oversight of crypto investments is to turn that task over to the CFTC. As the regulatory watchdog Better Markets observes, the CFTC has a budget of only $365 million, versus the SEC's $2.1 billion, and fewer than 700 employees, compared to the SEC's approximately 4,500 staffers).

The bill "would heap a whole new set of responsibilities on the CFTC, making it the de facto regulator of countless new crypto exchanges and broker-dealers," Better Markets wrote, even though the CFTC "does not have the funding to fulfill all its current statutory mandates."

The debate Wednesday that preceded the House passage of FIT21 was typically tone-deaf and filled with fictitious and factitious assertions. Rep. Mike Flood, R-Neb., invoked the FTX scandal, which saw billions of dollars in clients' and investors' crypto deposits illegally appropriated by the firm's leaders. "We need to ensure that there are the protective rules that prevent anything like that happening again," he said.

Flood asserted that, under FIT21, FTX would have been barred from registering as an exchange, and it would not have been able to commingle its funds with those of its clients. One wonders what he was talking about. FTX was barred from registering as an exchange, and didn't do so. Why? Because Bankman-Fried, its founder, knew that to do so would have subjected the firm to SEC oversight, which no one in crypto wants to undergo.

As for commingling funds, it's already illegal—it's one of the practices that landed Bankman-Fried in prison.

The bottom line is very clear. There's no justification for bestowing on crypto a hand-manufactured regulatory scheme all of its own. Its promoters have no argument other than to claim that they need regulation-lite to foster "innovation," when the result will be to facilitate the cheating of customers, laundering money or lubricating ransomware attacks like the one that has disrupted the crucial operations of the UnitedHealth Group subsidiary Change Healthcare, which manages reimbursement processes for medical providers nationwide.

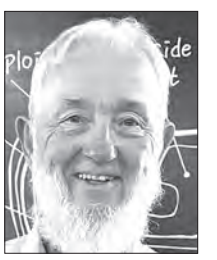
If there's a corner of the financial world crying out for tougher regulation, it's crypto. For Congress to even contemplate a slackening of the regulation that already exists is nothing short of absurd. But Congress doesn't respond to practicalities; it responds to money. That's the only driver of efforts like FIT21.

MAY IS PHILIPPINE HERITAGE MONTH

Poem/song in Tagalog—English translations

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.

Here are two stanzas of a 20-stanza love poem written by Francisco Balagtas (b.1788-d.1862). Find the complete poem and his bio online. "Magkaisa" (Tagalog for 'Unite') is a 1986 Filipino pop song composed by Tito Sotto, sung by Vima Lisa Loberiza and associated with the People Power Revolution of 1986. Poem and song originally written in Tagalog.

TO CELIA—a love poem by Francisco Balagtas (an excerpt)

"… Not rarely now my vagrant grief sits under the mango tree we passed,
and looking at the dainty fruits you wanted picked I forgot my ache/
The whole of me could only be intimate with sighs when you were ill;
for I knew as Eden kept a room for us my hidden heart was heaven still."

'MAGKAISA' (Tagalog for 'Unite')

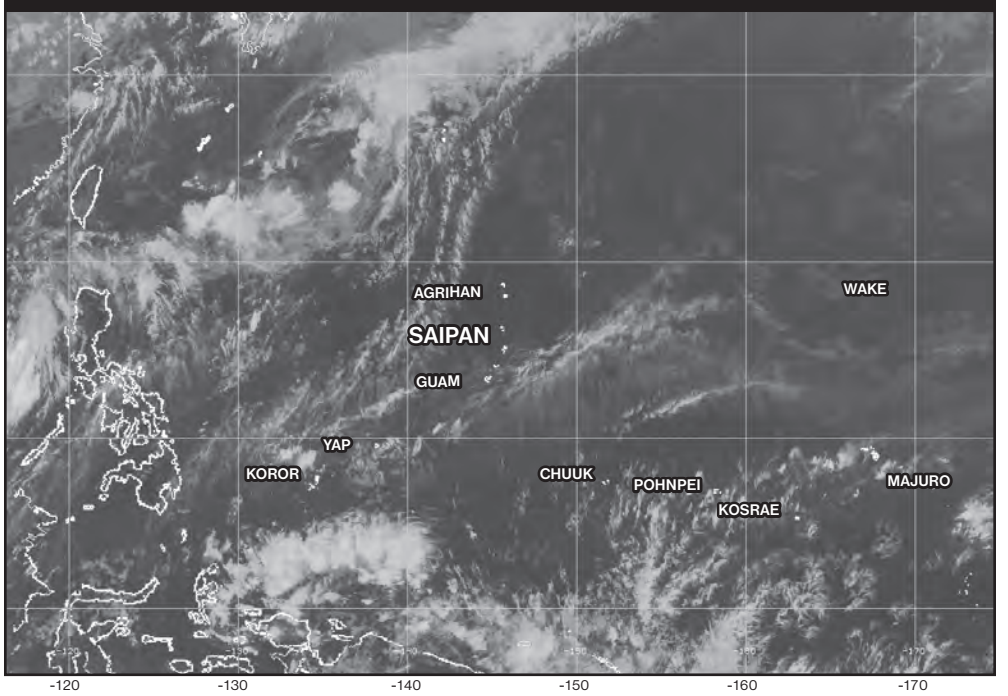
"LET US UNITE" (English translation from Tagalog)
Now it is evident that the world's suffering/What we need is understanding
Let us give love and compassion to others/We came from only one root
We are all just humans/In the midst of the storm and waves,
Don't lose hope
It is time (Hope is just around the corner) for Unity (a new morning,
a new day) Even if this (He the Lord loves each of us)
Is all pain and suffering
Let us unite (Hope is just around the corner) And march together
(A new morning a new day) Lets hold hands (He the Lord loves each of us)
In the newly found Hope
Now Hope can be seen/A new day, a new morning/God's everlasting love,
Keep in mind always/ (Repeat -'It is time…) (Repeat -'Let us Unite …)".

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:12 AM THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies are seen across the Marianas with a trade wind trough producing spotty showers east of the waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	88° / 80°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Fair	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:39 AM	12:41 PM	-
Saturday	1:20 AM	1:36 PM	-
Sunday	2:00 AM	2:33 PM	-
Monday	2:41 AM	3:30 PM	-
Tuesday	3:24 AM	4:29 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 71°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 63°
Manila	Fair	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 59°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 54°
Busan	Cloudy	72° / 60°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 57°
Salem	Thunderstorm	79° / 66°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 58°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloud	81° / 65°
Washington, DC	Fair	77° / 61°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:31 AM	High Tide	2.10
8:43 AM	Low Tide	1.21
1:13 PM	High Tide	1.67
8:07 PM	Low Tide	0.35

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Rodriguez, Santos Jr. leads 42 graduates of Tinian High School Class of 2024

PSS

The Top 10 of Tinian High School Class of 2024, from right to left: (1) Clarize Paraiso Rodriguez; (2) Romaldo Hofschneider Santos Jr.; (3) Sophia Li Ying; (4) Tano-Donald San Nicolas King II; (5) Morshedur Rahman Khan Anan; (6) Mary Grace Genez Calacsan; (7) Elani Mae Esmedilla; (8) Tony Brandi Sanchez Cabarles; (9) Miyako Kalissa Cruz San Nicolas, and (10) Jaedon Clyde Fabreag Lenteja. They were introduced to the community by principal Liz Perzinski, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, acting Board of Education chair Maisie B. Tenorio, and BOE members Antonio L. Borja and Andrew L. Orsini.

Forty-two high school seniors of the only public high school here, Tinian High School, were conferred their high school diplomas on Monday afternoon, with Clarize Paraiso Rodriguez named the class valedictorian and Joseph Romaldo Hofschneider Santos Jr. the salutatorian.

The 42 Tinian High School seniors belong to the Class of 2024, which were conferred graduates in a ceremony held at the main pavillion, Jones Beach. Principal Liz Perzinski presented the graduates

PSS

The Board of Education Academic Excellence Award was presented to class valedictorian Clarize Paraiso Rodriguez by BOE acting chair Maisie B. Tenorio and BOE members Antonio L. Borja and Andrew L. Orsini.

PSS

The Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award was presented to Romaldo Hofschneider Santos Jr., the class salutatorian, by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and some key Public School System officials—associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, Special Education state director Donna Flores, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Instructional Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza, and senior director for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua.

to the top education leaders before a packed venue.

Acting Board of Education chair Maisie B. Tenorio, BOE members Antonio L. Borja and Andrew L. Orsini, and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho attended the event, among other key Public School System officials, along with Tinian and Aguiguan municipal officials.

Valedictorian Rodriguez is also the recipient of the highest education award, the CNMI Board of Education Academic Excellence Award presented by Tenorio, Borja, and Orsini.

Santos Jr., the salutatorian, was presented with the second-highest award, the Commissioner of Education Academic Excellence Award, by Camacho, who was joined by associate commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, Special Education state director Donna M. Flores, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, Instructional Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza, and senior director for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua.

Joining the two top graduates in the Class of 2024 top ten are: (3) Sophia Li Ying; (4) Tano-Donald San Nicolas King II; (5) Morshedur Rahman Khan Anan; (6) Mary Grace Genez Calacsan; (7) Elani Mae Esmedilla; (8) Tony Brandi Sanchez Cabarles; (9) Miyako Kalissa Cruz San Nicolas, and (10) Jaedon Clyde Fabreag Lenteja.

'Own the future'

Perzinski, in quoting parts of the Class of 2024 theme, "… own the future," said it is a strong message for the graduates to succeed in life.

Of the 42 graduates, 19 of them have already been accepted by the Northern Marianas College, one—class valedictorian—Rodriguez is a recipient of the Quest Bridge Fullbright Scholarship, and five have been accepted by the United States military: Jaedon Lenteja to West Point Academy; salutatorian Santos, Jr. to U.S. Air Force Preparatory School, Air Force Academy, Edgar Acollador to the Navy Academy, Mary Grace Calacsan, to the U.S. Air Force, and Jesus Manglona to the U.S. Navy.

"Move forward…but do not be afraid to look back, reflect, and learn the lesson, and make those mistakes your steppingstones to become a wiser person," Perzinski said.

Tenorio, speaking on behalf of BOE chair Herman Atalig and colleagues, said "I have been to about 50 graduation

See GRADUATES on Page 12

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-022
WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-022, Workers' Compensation Insurance & Administration"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 25, 2024 at 10:00 a,m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Francisco Matsunaga, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

PSS

The Class of 2024 of Tinian High School was introduced to the public last Monday afternoon.

GRADUATES

From page 11

ceremonies throughout my term as a BOE member, and there is always a question: why do I attend graduations? My answer is the same: I do it for our students. It is an honor for me to join you and your families to celebrate—and an honor that I will always be grateful for."

She added, "It reminds me that there's good in the world. You are the good in the world. At this moment, you bask in the goodness of the world. We salute you; we celebrate you."

Camacho echoed the theme of the Class of 2024, "Walk the Stage, Own the Future," and speaks of the future of Tinian.

"The future of Tinian is bright because, again, we have wonderful ladies and gentlemen, who have achieved one of the most daring things in life and that is to get educated, to learn," Camacho said.

He also praised parents and the community for contributing to the success of the students.

"I want to thank the families for the contributions to the future success that we see now right in front of us. They are the emerging future of Tinian, of our islands here."

'Incredibly fortunate'

In his valedictorian address, Rodriguez said she is honored and incredibly fortunate to be graduating together with a group of students whom she had spent and shared memories with throughout her high school years.

"I've watched several graduation speeches for inspiration, and each one made me realize how incredibly fortunate I am. In some schools with hundreds of students, graduates often start their speeches with, 'If you don't know me, my name is,' because they have not met everyone. Some students even see each other for the first time at graduation, despite being in the same school for four years. In fact, I vividly remember one of the graduating seniors that I met in the states last month saying, "Yeah, I am graduating with a bunch of random people." But here I am. Here, I am fortunate enough to say that you all aren't just some random people in my life. You are my classmates. Here, I can say I know your first and last names. And here, we can look at each other and know that we had the privilege of interacting with each other, sharing laughter, tears, and making memories at one point during middle school or high school," Rodriguez said.

Despite the "various seasons" in their high school life, Rodriguez said "we grew taller and stronger" with each passing year. "Although we did not have many experiences together in our first year of high school due to quarantine, it made us resilient. Our first year was literally through online classes, and we all adapted to that… We endured, even though, for some of us, it is difficult to learn without the teacher physically there. Then, as soon as things were back to normal, we branched out, joined different sports and clubs, and became the leaders of today. Some of us excelled in sports, some in academics, some in the arts, and some as fantastic fishers or farmers. We discover our strengths and passions, find our own unique ways to contribute within our family, school, or community."

She dedicated her success, among others, to her parents.

'Triumph'

Salutatorian Santos Jr., in his address, said their success as high school senior graduates leaves him heavy-hearted.

"I proudly stand here with a heavy heart, weighed not just by the triumph of us all reaching the peak of our academic efforts and perseverance, but in admiration of the journey we've had through pitfalls and heights to get here. After graduation, some of you will be heading out to explore the ocean of life beyond our little rock; somewhere on the mainland, overseas, and even on our sister island. As you receive your diplomas and begin to plan out your course for life, recognize that things will be overwhelmingly difficult from here, and some battles you will have to face alone. Nevertheless, stand tall and carry along with you the experiences and memories that have shaped each of you into the resilient and adaptable individuals you are now."

He reminded his fellow Class of 2024 of their high school journey.

"(Our experiences) shaped us to sail smoothly through the rest of our high school years when our class courageously plunged further into the depths of life. In these years, we nearly won back-to-back pep rallies, competed strongly against other schools in sports, took on leadership positions, attended our first prom, and some of us even became part of the first Tinian armed drill team to go to Golden Bear in Cali. Yet, it seemed like our class could never escape trouble as we faced another pandemic this year: senioritis. Trust me, it's real. And it even started to affect us outside of assignments and schoolwork. Still, our class remained steadfast and successful because despite us doing things at the last minute, we were still able to pull through with the events we planned out.

He praised both of his parents. "Being your son is the greatest gift imaginable. You would say how it takes a village to raise a child, but the sacrifices that parents make, even when it involves their own wellbeing and happiness, raise a child to be successful." ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
- CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) TAMS NETWORK SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install Total Automotive Management Systems (TAMS) software by mapping the IP address of the server and setting up Employee user profiles and granting them access based on their designations and monitoring the tasks they do by reviewing the logs on the server; In charge of training sessions for employees in TAMS, dealership web sites & parts-departmental activities, responsible for all backups & security management; Manage inventory databases, generate reports, analyze and fixing the deficiencies by adjusting the ordering tables based on the sales history and demand for the product, and integrate accounting systems using TAMS software. Install and administrate bookkeeping and Automatic data processing (ADP) software's by giving limited access to the staff; Manage and provide technical support related to networking (LAN and WAN), and operating systems (Linux 8.6 & Windows); Evaluate and recommend network hardware and software to meet operational requirements; Stay up to date on new generation computers, Radio Frequency Scanners, Wireless devices & software whenever needed to meet customer demand; Create customer profiles in the server to maintain standardized pricing for each segment of customers and maintain consistent profit ratios; Assist with hardware-related problems and provide network support for the stores in the CNMI and Guam. Maintain the VPN tunnels between the stores in Saipan and Guam to process daily communications between the stores to transfer special requests/orders or inventory; Monitor suppliers to ensure that they efficiently and effectively provide needed auto parts and supplies within budgetary limits; Responsible for planning, developing, installing, configuring, maintaining, supporting and optimizing all network hardware, software and communication links between NAPA outlets in the CNMI, Guam and the Mainland United States; Perform other related duties as assigned by management.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science; Network Administration; Information Technology; Management Information Systems or related field, foreign equivalent is acceptable; AND
- 3 Years' experience in computer networking or other computer related field;

Working Conditions: Full-time (40 hours per week).
Location: Bisnes Mami (Saipan), Inc. dba NAPA Auto and Truck Parts; P.O. Box 504640; Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd., San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Venkata K. Medabalmi, President
Bisnes Mami, Inc.
P.O. Box 504640
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd., San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-0475
Email Address: spnaccounts@bmiguam.com

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Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024,** and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024,** at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Business

Saipan Dental Clinic successfully conducts dental health presentations

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The newest addition to the CNMI's dental healthcare landscape held successful dental health presentations at William S. Reyes Elementary School last May 20 and Saipan International School last May 21.

Saipan Dental Clinic's dental professionals conducted interactive sessions for students from pre-K to 5th grade at the two schools that emphasized the importance of good oral hygiene practices and its impact on overall health.

Marketing associate and management admin Marilou Arriola said they presented to around 20 students at WSR and around 90 students at SIS.

"Our team is extremely grateful to both Saipan International School and WSR Elementary School for the chance to visit and teach young minds about oral hygiene. We are advocates for early dental education, and we believe that instilling these values in children is key. Our goal is for them to share what they've learned with their friends and family, and hopefully sparking a lifelong enthusiasm for dental health," she said.

WSR first grade teacher Elaine Enriquez thanked Saipan Dental Clinic for a fun and informative presentation.

"My students loved the costumes, performances, and activities. It's not every day we get to have a dental clinic visit our schools, so we are grateful for this opportunity!" she said.

Pam Walsh, SIS third grade teacher, seconded Enriquez and also thanked the Gualo Rai dental clinic for visiting SIS' elementary department.

"The presentation was a very entertaining one and the students love the hands-on activities. Congratulations Saipan Dental Clinic for a successful school outreach and thanks again for reminding our Geckos how to properly take care of our teeth!" she said.

Saipan Dental Clinic's Dr. Soon Ho Park said that maintaining good oral hygiene through regular brushing, flossing, and checkups are essential for optimal dental health in emphasizing oral hygiene to the community.

Dental assistants Daphne Cruzat and Ryan Borja said they also had a great time teaching oral hygiene to children.

"It was a heart-warming and fun experience for the whole team. Students actively participated in the activities and lessons we prepared for them. Proper oral hygiene should start from an early age," said Cruzat.

"We taught kids how to brush their teeth at least two minutes and two times a day to avoid gum disease," said Borja.

The students also shared that they had a fun and amusing time while learning the importance of dental hygiene from Saipan Dental Clinic staff.

"We leaned to always brush your teeth to have no cavities," said Napaton "Patricia" Papirom, a first grader at SIS.

Arthur Villaluz, an SIS fifth grade student, said he learned that flossing teeth is important to make sure nothing is stuck on your teeth.

Hailey Park, another fifth grader from SIS, said her favorite part of the presentation was learning to properly floss and brush your teeth and that you have to the see a dentist once every six months.

WSR's Jeff Lian, 7, said he found the presentation fun while learning how to properly clean and take care of your teeth, while schoolmate Kiara Ball, another 7-year-old, said she loved the dance number as well as finding out why teeth need to always stay healthy.

Like Ball, Meilanna Castro, 7, said she also liked how the Saipan Dental Clinic staff danced and the presentation on how too much sugar ruins teeth.

Arriola, meanwhile, said Saipan Dental Clinic is planning to have more events and programs aimed at educating the community about the critical role oral health plays in our overall well-being.

"We hope that through these efforts, oral health will become more of a priority within our community. Sadly, we're witnessing a rise in oral health issues in the CNMI, from minor problems to severe conditions like oral cancer. This trend is alarming, and we hope that our clinic can help to counter it by offering our services. As part of our commitment to the CNMI community's health, in addition to our standard offerings, we also provide cleanings for betelnut chewers and free oral cancer screenings," she said.

For more information or to schedule an appointment at Saipan Dental Clinic, call (670) 488-8533 or email info@saipandental.com. The clinic is conveniently located at the CLL Plaza (former IT&E) along Middle Road and is open all week (except Wednesdays) and also open on weekends.

SAIPAN DENTAL CLINIC

William S. Reyes Elementary first grade students with first grade teacher Elaine Enriquez pose with Saipan Dental Clinic after the oral health education presentation last May 20.

SAIPAN DENTAL CLINIC

Saipan International School second and third grade students pose with Saipan Dental Clinic after the oral health education presentation last May 21.

Nation

ON TRUMP'S HUSH MONEY TRIAL

Jurors zero in on key witnesses' testimony

NEW YORK (AP)—The jury in Donald Trump's hush money trial is to resume deliberations Thursday after asking to rehear potentially crucial testimony about the alleged hush money scheme at the heart of the history-making case.

The 12-person jury deliberated for about 4 1/2 hours on Wednesday without reaching a verdict.

Besides asking to rehear testimony from a tabloid publisher and Trump's former lawyer and personal fixer, the jury also requested to revisit at least part of the judge's hourlong instructions that were meant to guide them on the law.

It's unclear how long the deliberations will last. A guilty verdict would deliver a stunning legal reckoning for the presumptive Republican presidential nominee as he seeks to reclaim the White House while an acquittal would represent a major win for Trump and embolden him on the campaign trail. Since verdicts must be unanimous, it's also possible the case ends in a mistrial if the jury can't reach a consensus after days of deliberations.

Trump struck a pessimistic tone after leaving the courtroom following the reading of jury instructions, repeating his assertions of a "very unfair trial" and saying: "Mother Teresa could not beat those charges, but we'll see. We'll see how we do."

AP

Former President Donald Trump, with his attorney Todd Blanche at his side, walks over to speak to the media as the jury deliberates in this trial at Manhattan Criminal Court, Wednesday, May 29, 2024, in New York.

He remained inside the courthouse during deliberations, where he posted on his social media network complaints about the trial and quoted legal and political commentators who view the case in his favor. He did not testify in his own defense, a fact the judge told jurors they could not take into account.

Trump is charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records at his company in connection with an alleged scheme to hide potentially embarrassing stories about him during his 2016 Republican presidential election campaign.

The charge, a felony, arises from reimbursements paid to then-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen after he made a $130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels to silence her claims that she and Trump had sex in 2006. Trump is accused of misrepresenting Cohen's reimbursements as legal expenses to hide that they were tied to a hush money payment.

Alito rejects calls to quit Supreme Court cases on Trump and Jan. 6 because of flag controversies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Justice Samuel Alito is rejecting calls to step aside from Supreme Court cases involving former President Donald Trump and Jan. 6 defendants, saying his wife hoisted the two controversial flags that flew above their homes.

"My wife is fond of flying flags. I am not," Alito wrote Wednesday.

In letters to members of Congress, Alito said his wife, Martha-Ann, was responsible for flying both an upside-down flag over their home in 2021 and an "Appeal to Heaven" flag at their New Jersey beach house last year. Both flags were like those carried by rioters who violently stormed the Capitol in January 2021 while echoing Trump's false claims of election fraud.

Neither incident at Alito's homes merited his recusal, wrote the justice, who has rejected calls from Democrats in the past to recuse on other issues.

"I am confident that a reasonable person who is not motivated by political or ideological considerations or a desire to affect the outcome of Supreme Court cases would conclude that the events ... do not meet the applicable standard for recusal," he wrote. "I am therefore required to reject your request."

Supreme Court justices decide for themselves whether to sit out a case and the only potential consequence for refusing to step aside is impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal from office by the Senate. That has never happened in American history.

Trump, who was in New York while jurors deliberated in his hush money criminal trial, congratulated Alito for "showing the INTELLIGENCE, COURAGE, and 'GUTS'" in refusing to step aside. "All U.S. Judges, Justices, and Leaders should have such GRIT," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Some Senate Republicans also quickly took to social media Wednesday to praise Alito for staying involved in the cases.

The court is considering two major cases related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack by a mob of Trump supporters on the Capitol, including charges faced by the rioters and whether Trump has immunity from prosecution on election interference charges.

The New York Times reported that an inverted American flag was seen at Alito's home in Alexandria, Virginia, less than two weeks after the attack on the Capitol. The paper also reported that an "Appeal to Heaven" flag was flown outside the justice's beach home in New Jersey last summer.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel says it's taken control of key area of Gaza's border with Egypt awash in smuggling tunnels

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military said Wednesday it seized control of a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt to cut off smuggling tunnels as it tries to destroy the militant Hamas group in a war now in its eighth month. The capture of the Philadelphi Corridor could complicate Israel's relations with Egypt, which has complained about Israel's advance toward its border. Israel says the corridor is awash in tunnels that have funneled weapons and other goods for Hamas—despite a yearslong blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. Israel also deepened its incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands have been seeking shelter from fighting, and where intensifying violence in recent days has killed dozens of Palestinians. The military said that a fifth brigade—up to several thousand soldiers—joined troops operating in the city on Tuesday. Egypt says any increase in troops in the strategic border area would violate the countries' 1979 peace accord. It already has complained about Israel taking over the Rafah border crossing, the only crossing between Gaza and Egypt. "The Philadelphi Corridor served as the oxygen line of Hamas through which Hamas carried out weapons smuggling into Gaza on a regular basis," said Israel's military chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari. An Israeli military official said Israel had notified Egypt of the takeover. Some 20 tunnels, including some previously unknown to Israel, were found, as well as 82 access points to the tunnels, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations. It was not clear if the tunnels were currently in use.

US Treasury official visits Ukraine to discuss sanctions on Moscow and seizing Russian assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—A senior U.S. Treasury official has met with Ukrainian officials in Kyiv to discuss U.S. financial support, enforcing sanctions on Russia and using frozen Russian assets for Ukraine's benefit in the war with Moscow. The visit this week by Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo came as Russia gains territory after a lengthy delay in U.S. military aid left Ukraine at the mercy of Russia's bigger army. Meantime, the outlook for Ukraine's state finances is on shakier ground. "Russia's economy has become a wartime economy where every means of production and industry is now focused on building weapons to fight their war of choice and aggression here in Ukraine," Adeyemo told reporters Wednesday in Ukraine's capital. "And we need to do everything that we can to go after that." Adeyemo held talks with officials in Ukraine's finance ministry and president's office. At the Kyiv School of Economics, he spoke with faculty and civil society groups working on sanctions policy and ways to make the penalties against Russia more effective. President Joe Biden signed legislation in April that allows Washington to seize the roughly $5 billion in Russian state assets located in the United States. But the majority of the $260 billion in frozen Russian assets are in Europe, and U.S. officials are hoping for a consensus from their European allies on how to spend that money. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met in Italy last week with her counterparts from the Group of Seven nation to discuss how to squeeze money out of the frozen Russian assets to back Kyiv's war effort.

Hong Kong court convicts 14 pro-democracy activists in the city's biggest national security case

HONG KONG (AP)—A Hong Kong court Thursday convicted 14 pro-democracy activists in the city's biggest national security case under a law imposed by Beijing that has all but wiped out public dissent. Those found guilty included former lawmakers Leung Kwok-hung, Lam Cheuk-ting, Helena Wong and Raymond Chan, and they could face up to life in prison when sentenced later. The two defendants acquitted were former district councilors Lee Yue-shun and Lawrence Lau. They were among 47 democracy advocates who were prosecuted in 2021 for their involvement in an unofficial primary election. Prosecutors had accused them of attempting to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing the legislative majority necessary to indiscriminately veto budgets. In a summary of the verdict distributed to media, the court said the election participants had declared they would "either actively use or use the power conferred on the (Legislative Council) by the (Basic Law) to veto the budgets." Under the Basic Law, the chief executive would be compelled to dissolve the legislature and eventually step down if major bills such as the budget were vetoed. The court said that if the defendants had reached their aims, it would amount to "a serious interfering in, disrupting or undermining the performance of duties and functions in accordance with the law" by the Hong Kong government.

Iran opens registration period for presidential election after helicopter crash killed Raisi

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran opened a five-day registration period Thursday for hopefuls wanting to run in the June 28 presidential election to replace the late Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash earlier this month with seven others. The election comes as Iran grapples with the aftermath of the May 19 crash, as well as heightened tensions between Tehran and the United States, and protests including those over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that have swept the country. While Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 85, maintains final say over all matters of state, presidents in the past have bent the Islamic Republic of Iran toward greater interaction or increased hostility with the West. The five-day period will see those between the ages of 40 to 75 with at least a master's degree register as potential candidates. All candidates ultimately must be approved by Iran's 12-member Guardian Council, a panel of clerics and jurists ultimately overseen by Khamenei. That panel has never accepted a woman, for instance, nor anyone calling for radical change within the country's governance. Raisi, a protege of Khamenei, won Iran's 2021 presidential election after the Guardian Council disqualified all of the candidates with the best chance to potentially challenge him. That vote saw the lowest turnout in Iran's history for a presidential election

Life & Style

George Takei determined to keep telling his Japanese American story

TOKYO (AP)—The incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, including children, labeled enemies during World War II is an historical experience that has traumatized, and galvanized, the Japanese American community over the decades.

For George Takei, who portrayed Hikaru Sulu aboard the USS Enterprise in the "Star Trek" franchise, it's a story he is determined to keep telling every opportunity he has.

"I consider it my mission in life to educate Americans on this chapter of American history," he said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

AP

Members of the "Star Trek" crew, from left, James Doohan, DeForest Kelley, Walter Koenig, William Shatner, George Takei, Leonard Nimoy and Nichelle Nichols, toast the newest "Star Trek" film during a news conference at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles, Dec. 28, 1988.

He fears the lesson about the failure of U.S. democracy hasn't really been learned, even today, including among Japanese Americans.

"The shame of internment is the government's. They're the ones that did something unjust, cruel and inhuman. But so often the victims of the government actions take on the shame themselves," he said.

Takei, 87, has a new picture book out for children ages 6 to 9 and their parents, called "My Lost Freedom." It's illustrated in soft watercolors by Michelle Lee.

Takei was 4 years old when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, two months after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, declaring anyone of Japanese descent an enemy of the United States and forcibly removing them from their West Coast homes.

Takei spent the next three years behind barbed wires, guarded by soldiers with guns, in three camps: the Santa Anita racetrack, which stunk of manure; Camp Rohwer in a marshland; and, from 1943, Tule Lake, a high-security segregation center for the "disloyal."

"We were seen as different from other Americans. This was unfair. We were Americans, who had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor. Yet we were imprisoned behind barbed wires," Takei writes in the book.

Throughout it all, his parents are portrayed as enduring the hardships with a quiet dignity. His mother sewed clothes for the children. They made chairs out of scrap lumber. They played baseball. They danced to Benny Goodman. For Christmas, they got a Santa who looked Japanese.

Takei's is a remarkable story of resilience and a pursuit of justice, repeated throughout the Japanese American experience.

It's a story that's been told and retold, in books like the 1973 "Farewell to Manzanar" by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston; "Only What We Could Carry," edited by Lawson Fusao Inada more than 20 years ago; and "The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration," which just came out, compiled by Frank Abe and Floyd Cheung.

David Inoue, executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League, headquartered in Washington, D.C., believes the message of Takei's book remains relevant.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. files complaint over rules for CNN's presidential debate next month

PHOENIX (AP)—Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. filed an election complaint Wednesday alleging CNN is colluding with Democratic President Joe Biden and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump to exclude him from a debate the network is hosting next month.

Kennedy alleges the requirements to participate in the June 27 debate were designed to ensure only Biden and Trump would qualify and Kennedy claims he is being held to a higher standard.

"CNN is making prohibited corporate contributions to both campaigns and the Biden committee and the Trump committee have accepted these prohibited corporate contributions," a lawyer for Kennedy, Lorenzo Holloway, wrote in a letter to the Federal Election Commission.

CNN said the complaint was without merit.

Biden and Trump agreed this month to the CNN debate and a second on Sept. 10 hosted by ABC, bypassing the nonpartisan commission that has organized debates for nearly four decades. The first debate will come before Biden and Trump have been formally nominated by their parties this summer.

Kennedy has looked to the debates as a singular opportunity to stand alongside Biden and Trump, lending legitimacy to his longshot bid and convince people inclined to support him that he has a shot at winning. Both the Biden and Trump campaigns fear he could play spoiler.

Weinstein may face new charges as more accusers come forward, New York prosecutors say

NEW YORK (AP)—Manhattan prosecutors told a judge Wednesday they are evaluating more claims of sexual misconduct made against Harvey Weinstein and could potentially seek a new indictment against him before his scheduled retrial on rape and sexual assault charges.

Assistant District Attorney Nicole Blumberg said during a court hearing that additional people have come forward with assault claims and prosecutors are currently assessing which fall under the statute of limitations.

She said some potential survivors that were not ready to step forward during Weinstein's first New York trial may now be willing to testify.

When asked by Judge Curtis Farber whether there was a possibility of prosecutors filing a new indictment, Blumberg replied: "Yes, your honor."

Blumberg said prosecutors would be in a better position to update the court on the direction of the case at the end of June.

Farber set the next hearing date for July 9. The retrial on the rape charge is tentatively scheduled for some time after Labor Day.

Weinstein's lawyer, Arthur Aidala, told reporters outside the courthouse after the hearing that his client was confident no additional accusers would be found to bolster the prosecution's case.

"He knows he's never done anything like this," Aidala said of Weinstein.

Weinstein, appearing in the same New York City courthouse where former President Donald Trump is on trial, entered the court in a wheelchair, as he has during other recent court hearings since his 2020 conviction was tossed out.

Weinstein has suffered from medical problems throughout his time in jail, his lawyers have said. He is currently at the city's Rikers Island jail complex.

Earlier in the hearing, Farber addressed a letter from prosecutors last week requesting the court to remind Weinstein's lawyers not to discuss or disparage potential witnesses in public ahead of the retrial.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office argues that Aidala made statements earlier this month that were meant to intimidate Miriam Haley, a former TV and film production assistant who Weinstein was convicted of sexually assaulting.

Aidala, Weinstein's lawyer, apologized to the judge, saying he didn't intend to intimidate anyone.

Senior boyfriend kept kids' ages under wraps

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my man for seven years. When we got serious, he told me he had kids. Because we are seniors, I assumed his kids were adults. I recently found out that the kids are teenagers! He is very involved in their lives.

The problem is, their mother calls him constantly about bills for her house and what the kids need. He pays her phone bill, water bill, electric bill and sometimes the internet bill, as well as giving her money each month for the kids. He says he does it because he doesn't pay child support, and he wants to take care of his kids.

He says he's not, under any circumstances, getting back together with the mom. He tells me he loves me, and he does show it. He says that when the kids graduate from high school in two years, he will have no reason to talk to their mom or to pay her bills. He wants his kids to leave and go to college.

I'm very concerned about our relationship moving forward. He gives me a lot of information about what happens between the mom, the kids and him. The woman is dangerous and volatile. She has come at him with a knife twice. Should I hang in there for the next two years or move on? I love him very much.

SUSPENDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR SUSPENDED: Hang in there, but understand that the time has come for you to discuss ALL of this with your gentleman friend. Suggest he talk to a family law attorney now about his children's higher education. In some states, laws or case law gives courts the authority to order a noncustodial parent to pay for some form of college expenses.

As to his children's unstable mother, you can bet that when he stops footing her bills, she's going to be one angry woman. If she threatens his life again, he should immediately report her to the police and seek a restraining or no-contact order.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My friend had back surgery that has left her walking with a walker or a cane. We go out to eat quite often. When the hostess takes us to our seats, they often take us to a table that is far from the door, bypassing many empty tables. Sometimes, we have even had to go up or down some steps.

I know they have a system for seating in a restaurant, but it sure would be nice if they'd recognize her difficulty in maneuvering and seat us closer to the entrance or exit. I'm sure many people have this issue. I would say something, but my friend says it would embarrass her. How do others solve this problem?

BETTER ACCESS NEEDED IN IOWA

DEAR ACCESS: Others resolve the problem by informing the restaurant at the time the reservation is made that a member of the party has a disability and needs easy access not only to the entrance and exit, but also to the table. If you and this friend are walk-ins with no reservation, discreetly inform the host where you need to be seated. It would be to the restaurant's advantage to avoid the potential liability of a trip and fall by not forcing this guest to maneuver through an obstacle course.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

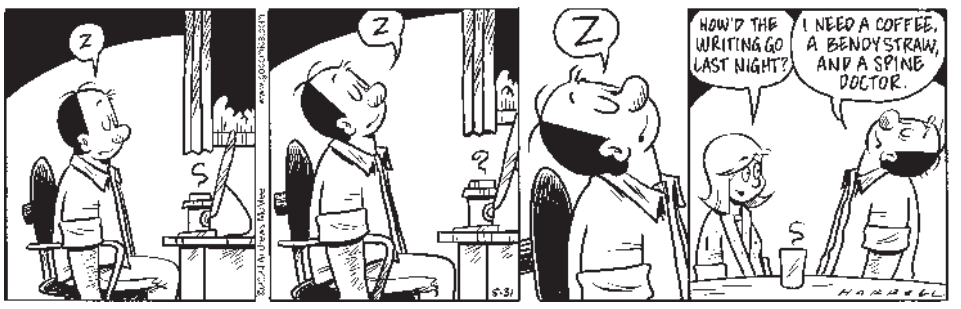
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STARTED A SECRET CLUB JUST TO EXCLUDE GIRLS! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH GIRLS!
SEE, HOBBES? GIRLS ARE SO EMOTIONAL.
YOU'RE THE MEANEST, MOST ROTTEN LITTLE KID I KNOW! WELL, FINE! PLAY WITH YOUR STUFFED TIGER! SEE WHAT I CARE! I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH A STINKER LIKE YOU ANYWAY!!
WOW, WHAT A GREAT CLUB!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sunrises
6 "The Wall" network
9 Rage
12 With 6-Down, famed physicist
13 Blunder
14 Bagel topper
15 Refuse an offer
16 Edge of a road
18 Organize an art show
20 Two of a kind
21 GI's address
23 Comic Philips
24 Failed to
25 Gaming tyro
27 Labor group
29 Metallic mixtures
31 Shoulder warmers
35 Garden spoilers
37 Asian nation
38 Feline weapons
41 "— Wiedersehen"
43 Thither
44 To boot
45 "Anna Christie" playwright
47 Ungovernable
49 Keaton of "Poms"
52 Compass dir.
53 Director Spike
54 "South Pacific" hero
55 Speck
56 Supporting
57 Burdened

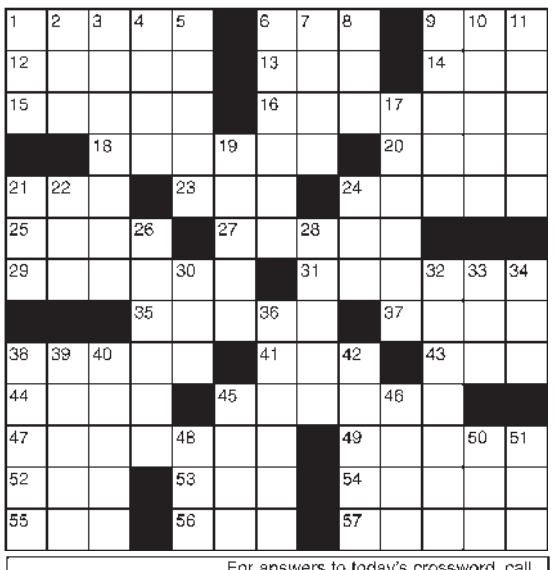
DOWN

1 Insult, slangily
2 Botanist Gray
3 "Totally awesome!"
4 Half of Mork's farewell
5 Sportscast offering
6 See 12-Across
7 Scottish slope
8 Sob
9 Homer classic
10 "The Thinker" sculptor
11 Apply, as pressure
17 "This Is — Tap"
19 Tickle
21 Santa — winds
22 D.C. figure
24 Homer's lament
26 Doggie, to a child
28 Edition
30 "Certainly!"
32 Ambushed
33 Brit's restroom
34 Tax form ID
36 Anger
38 Made crow noises
39 Treeless plain
40 To date
42 Cuba's Castro
45 Sweet sandwich
46 Peru's capital
48 TV alien
50 Marlins' div.
51 Still, in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	S	H		D	A	B		S	N	O	B
A	S	T	I		O	V	A		T	A	L	E
S	T	O	A		W	I	N		A	I	D	S
I	O	P	I	E	N		G	I	M	L	E	I
			U	L	I			C	O	D		
D	A	D	S		I	L	I	U	S	O	R	Y
F	M	O			C	I	A			W	Y	F
B	I	W	E	E	K	L	Y		C	N	E	T
		N	A	E			S	O	Y			
S	H	E	R	R	Y		D	Y	N	A	M	C
A	M	A	T		O	R	C		I	C	O	R
G	O	S	H		D	O	W		C	H	A	B
A	S	I	A		A	N	N		S	A	N	S

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 48; Brooke Shields, 59; Tom Berenger, 75; Clint Eastwood, 94.

Happy Birthday: Consider everything before making a move. Invest time and effort into research, and develop a thorough plan that ensures success. Knowledge is a powerful tool when dealing with bureaucratic, medical or financial matters. Personal gain is apparent if you follow the rules and pay attention to detail. An opportunity to improve your lifestyle and gain respect and support is favored. Make fitness and a positive attitude your priorities. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 29, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Double-check information, what others are doing and how to take advantage of a situation that leads to a fork in the road. Knowledge is your ticket to success, and knowing when to veer to the right or left will unfold if you listen to your intuition. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll gain stability if you make personal changes that distance you from those who confuse or trouble you. Assess situations honestly, and you'll gain insight into opportunities that encourage a better position, reputation or outlook. It's up to you to call the shots. Take control. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take the path of least resistance, and you'll gain access to a seamless transition and insight into possibilities. An opportunity to explore your capabilities will boost your ego and give you the confidence to turn your desires into something tangible. Make health and fitness your priorities. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Focus on what's possible. You will surpass your expectations with discipline and ingenuity and reap the rewards you deserve. Don't feel obligated to pay for someone else or to spend impulsively. Look for opportunities or investments that pay you instead of those that require cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An energetic approach to taking care of responsibilities and getting ahead will pay off. Call in favors and stick to basics to avoid unnecessary costs. Collaborating with someone who has something to contribute will show promise in more ways than one. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Conversations will impact your decisions. Gain knowledge and set your plans in motion. Embrace the change that offers peace of mind, and reach out to people who share your interests and concerns. Additional opportunities will follow. Uniquely display your skills and ideas, and success will be yours. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You can make great strides mentally, financially and physically if you apply yourself. Direct your energy into what matters to you; the results will make you smile. Participating in events that interest you will lead to extraordinary connections. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Explore your options and experience what life offers. Conversations will spark your imagination and provide a unique blend of new possibilities. Express your feelings and intentions, and you will find out who you can rely on to pitch in and help. Home improvement is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a moment to rethink your options. A domestic issue will surface due to emotional confusion or misunderstanding. Go over every detail before implementing a change that can interfere with your plans or domestic or professional responsibilities. Honesty and integrity will deter setbacks. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look for alternative ways to fill your time or to approach something that interests you. Sign up for a seminar, conference or event that offers mental stimulation and the chance to connect with like-minded people. Take precautions regarding money matters to ensure you stabilize your financial situation. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take pride in how you look and what you do, and you'll get feedback that will encourage you to invest more time and money into your dreams, hopes and wishes. A domestic change that helps you accommodate what you want to achieve will help build momentum. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A steady pace, a disciplined mind and a plan that offers positive change will be yours if you are honest regarding your expectations and align yourself with people who can help you reach your goal. It's OK to do things differently if you are thorough and practical. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are astute, compassionate and optimistic. You are resourceful and curious.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	5				9	7
1			2		3			8
8		5	1					
	8			6	5			
4							7	
5		2	7					
2	7				1	6		
			4	2		7	3	
		1		5				2

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	3	2	4	1	7	9	5
1	7	9	3	8	5	2	4	6
5	4	2	7	6	9	1	3	8
4	9	6	1	2	7	5	8	3
2	3	7	8	5	4	6	1	9
8	5	1	6	9	3	4	2	7
3	1	5	4	7	8	9	6	2
9	2	8	5	1	6	3	7	4
7	6	4	9	3	2	8	5	1

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/30

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GAME DESIGNERS Solution: 7 letters

M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	S	N	O	T	T	U	B	O
A	N	I	M	A	T	O	R	A	U	D	I	O	B	B
P	E	M	T	C	O	T	S	I	T	R	A	S	P	J
S	N	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	G	R	T	Q	O	E
T	V	T	K	B	L	O	G	O	D	A	U	N	T	C
C	I	E	E	L	I	P	A	G	C	E	D	S	K	T
E	R	N	N	E	I	L	A	L	S	I	F	D	S	I
F	O	R	E	V	O	M	E	T	G	S	I	R	E	V
F	N	E	D	E	E	R	A	I	T	O	L	A	D	E
E	M	T	I	L	A	I	T	G	E	E	M	C	R	T
D	E	N	T	W	D	A	L	N	E	D	R	E	A	A
N	N	I	T	E	L	L	E	X	I	P	A	N	W	E
U	T	F	M	S	E	N	E	C	S	P	A	C	E	R
O	O	I	D	U	T	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	R	C
S	N	O	I	T	C	U	R	T	S	N	Ⓘ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ

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Animator, Arcade, Artist, Audio, Board Game, Buttons, Cards, Create, Desktop, Digital, Edit, Environment, Film, Goal, Idea, Image, Instructions, Internet, Intro, Level, Logo, Maps, Media, Mission, Mobile, Mystery, Objective, Obstacle, Pattern, Pixel, Quest, Reward, Scenes, Setting, Software, Sound Effects, Space, Studio, Token

Yesterday's Answer: Thrilling

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Rangers sweep World Series rematch over D'backs

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager certainly made the Arizona Diamondbacks pay when they did pitch to him.

For the second game in a row, Seager homered on the first pitch of the next at-bat after getting intentionally walked and the reigning champion Texas Rangers swept a quick two-game rematch of last year's World Series.

"When he's hot, he barrels up anything thrown near the zone," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said.

Seager homered for the eighth time in eight games, Dane Dunning threw five scoreless innings and the Rangers won 6-1 on Wednesday.

The Diamondbacks intentionally walked Seager with two outs and an open base in the third after the Rangers had taken a 1-0 lead on Jonah Heim's RBI double. When Seager came up with a runner on and two outs in the fifth, the World Series MVP lined a 97.7 mph inside cutter on the first pitch into the right-field seats to make it 4-0.

"Extremely impressive," Dunning said.

"I mean he's carrying us, he's trying to carry us through that tough stretch," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "I don't know what else to say. He's just an incredible hitter."

Reigning World Series champion Texas (27-29) won its third game in a row since losing five consecutive series. The Diamondbacks (25-30) have lost seven of their last 11 games.

Arizona had tried the same thing Tuesday night, when Seager was given a free pass with two outs in the third, then hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the fifth for the final runs in a 4-2 victory.

"We're just playing good baseball," said Seager, who never really likes to talk about himself. "Hitting's contagious. ... and it's just starting to roll."

Texas played its first game in more than two years without Marcus Semien in the lineup. The leadoff-hitting second basemen ended his streak of 349 consecutive games since May 13, 2022, after playing banged up and still sore from an outfield collision May 18 with right fielder Adolis García.

"That was a little strange," Seager said. "Everyone once in a while it's OK."

Dunning (4-3), in his second start back from being on the injured list with a right rotator cuff strain, struck out six. He walked four and allowed three hits, and got out of a bases-loaded jam in the third. The start had been pushed back a day after a serious sinus infection.

AP

Texas Rangers' Corey Seager is congratulated by Ezequiel Duran (20) after hitting a two run home run that scored Duran off of Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Ryne Nelson during the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 29, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

CARDINALS 5, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Matt Carpenter hit a go-ahead home in the third inning, Nolan Gorman also went deep and St. Louis reached .500 for the first time in six weeks with a win over Cincinnati.

Carpenter hit his first home run for the Cardinals since April 30, 2021, as St. Louis (27-27) won for the 12th time in 15 games. The Cardinals had not been at .500 since they were 9-9 before play on April 17 and they had dropped to 15-24 before their turnaround. They have won five straight series.

A 38-year-old three-time All-Star who played for the Cardinals from 2011-21, Carpenter hit a third-inning drive off Frankie Montas (2-4). Carpenter is batting .250 with four RBIs in 36 at-bats.

Gorman hit his 10th home run of the season, an eighth-inning drive off Brent Suter, and also had an RBI double that boosted the lead to 2-0 in the fourth.

Andre Pallante (1-1) allowed three hits in six scoreless innings in his first start since July 31, 2022. He struck out four and walked three.

TIGERS 8, PIRATES 0, 1ST GAME
PIRATES 10, TIGERS 2, 2nd GAME

DETROIT (AP)—Paul Skenes struck out nine and earned his second career victory and Pittsburgh salvaged a doubleheader split with a win over Detroit.

Skenes (2-0), making his fourth major league start, gave up two runs and three hits in six innings. Skenes has 30 strikeouts in 22 innings and a 2.45 ERA.

Andrew McCutchen had a three-run homer in the third inning for his 1,600th career hit. McCutchen had three hits and a walk while driving in four runs. Nick Gonzales also had three hits, including a solo homer.

Tigers starter Keider Montero (0-1), making his major league debut, gave up four runs and five hits while striking out five in 4 1/3 innings. Montero got the promotion from Triple-A Toledo earlier in the day.

Matt Vierling hit his fourth homer in three games for Detroit, which had its four-game winning streak snapped.

McCutchen's homer off Montero's curveball gave Pittsburgh a 3-1 lead. Gonzales homered in the fourth. The Pirates added six runs over the final four innings.

In the opener, Vierling had a three-run homer and drove in four runs in Detroit's 8-0 victory. Tarik Skubal bounced back from his only loss this season by holding the Pirates to three singles and a walk in seven innings.

PHILLIES 6, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Nick Castellanos had a two-run homer among his three hits, Cristopher Sánchez struck out seven in six scoreless innings and the MLB-leading Philadelphia beat San Francisco to snap a three-game losing streak.

Castellanos added a double and a single as Philadelphia avoided a series sweep and ended a nine-game losing streak at Oracle Park.

Sánchez (3-3) scattered four hits and a walk, lowering his ERA to 2.83.

Kyle Schwarber hit his 36th career leadoff homer and his fifth this season, tying Baltimore's Gunnar Henderson for the MLB lead. Schwarber added an RBI single in the eighth.

Cristian Pache had two hits, including an RBI single, as the Phillies closed out a six-game trip with a 2-4 record.

Heliot Ramos drove in San Francisco's run with a bloop RBI single with two outs in the ninth.

MARLINS 9, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Braxton Garrett outlasted Yu Darvish, Josh Bell had three hits and scored twice and Miami beat San Diego to avoid a sweep.

Jesús Sánchez hit a solo homer and Jazz Chisholm Jr. had two hits and drove in two runs as the Marlins had a season-high 16 hits and snapped the Padres' three-game winning streak. The Padres dropped to 13-19 at home.

Garrett (2-0) was impressive for five innings, allowing one run and six hits, with two strikeouts and no walks. His only big mistake was allowing Ha-Seong Kim's leadoff homer in the third, his seventh.

Darvish (4-3) was finished after three innings and 66 pitches. He allowed three runs, two earned, and six hits, with two strikeouts and one walk. It was his second straight loss after winning his previous four starts.

DODGERS 10, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Shohei Ohtani homered and drove in three runs, Will Smith went deep twice and the Los Angeles Dodgers completed a three-game sweep of the New York Mets.

Smith's second homer was a tiebreaking solo shot off Adam Ottavino (1-2) to start a six-run eighth inning capped by Ohtani's two-run drive. Miguel Vargas blooped a two-run double, and Miguel Rojas bounced an RBI single over a drawn-in infield during the latest meltdown by a dreadful Mets bullpen.

Jason Heyward had a pinch-hit triple in the eighth and added a solo homer in the ninth. Rojas matched a career high with four of Los Angeles' 16 hits.

Ohtani also had an RBI single. He began the day in a 7-for-37 (.189) slide since his previous home run May 17 against Cincinnati.

Ohtani's 14th homer of the season came off reliever Jorge López, who was ejected moments later for shouting at third base umpire Ramon De Jesus over an appeal ruling on Freddie Freeman's checked swing.

New York (22-33) has lost 10 of 12 and 15 of 19.

ORIOLES 6, RED SOX 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson's grand slam in the second put Baltimore ahead to stay, and Corbin Burnes pitched seven sharp innings to help Baltimore beat Boston.

The Orioles, winners of six of their last seven, have not lost any of their last 18 series against AL East foes, going 13-0-5. The defending division champs took two of three from Boston, scoring five runs in the second inning of the finale.

Burnes (5-2) allowed an unearned run and three hits. He struck out five and walked three.

Kutter Crawford (2-4) gave up five runs in six innings, five days after yielding a season-high six runs against Milwaukee.

Ramón Urías also homered for Baltimore, hitting a solo shot in the seventh.

RAYS 4, ATHLETICS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jose Siri made a tremendous catch in the top of the ninth inning and singled in the winning run in the bottom half in Tampa Bay's victory over Oakland.

Amed Rosario doubled leading off the ninth against Michael Kelly (2-2), went to third on Alex Jackson's sacrifice bunt, and scored on Siri's hit.

Pete Fairbanks (1-2) survived the ninth after allowing a leadoff double to Miguel Andújar. He retired the next three batters on balls all hit 102.3 mph or higher, including Zack Gelof's 107.7 mph drive to center that Siri made a leaping catch on.

ROYALS 3, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Nelson Velázquez homered twice, Salvador Perez hit his team-leading 10th homer of the season and Kansas City snapped a three-game skid with a win over Minnesota.

Velázquez's first homer came in Kansas City's four-run third inning. After Minnesota jumped out to an early 1-0 lead, the Royals countered with four runs off Twins starter Bailey Ober.

Perez drove in the go-ahead run with a double to left, and Veláquez knocked in Perez two batters later with a two-run shot to center for a 4-1 lead.

Perez hit a solo homer in the fifth inning and Veláquez followed with his seventh homer of the season to give the Royals a 6-1 lead.

That was plenty of run support for Royals right-hander Seth Lugo (9-1), who earned his fourth win in as many starts. Lugo allowed one run on six hits in six innings, with his career-best ninth win.

BLUE JAYS 3, WHITESOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Trevor Richards and Toronto's bullpen delivered after Alek Manoah departed because of elbow discomfort, and Toronto beat the slumping Chicago White Sox.

With two out and a runner on third in the second inning, Manoah was checked on by manager John Schneider and a trainer after throwing a 91.4 mph sinker to Dominic Fletcher for a ball. The big right-hander then departed after a short discussion on the mound.

Richards (1-0) came in and pitched 3 1/3 innings of one-hit ball. Tim Mayza, Zach Pop and Yimi García each got three outs before Jordan Romano earned his eighth save in nine chances, finishing a four-hitter.

Korey Lee hit his fifth homer off Romano with two out in the ninth, but left fielder Daulton Varsho finished the game with a solid running catch on Paul DeJong's drive.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa drove in two runs for Toronto, which completed a 4-3 trip.

Bronny staying in NBA Draft, agent Rich Paul announces

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Bronny James is keeping his name in the NBA draft, with the hopes of joining his father in the league next season.

"He's a really good prospect who has a lot of room for growth," Rich Paul, the CEO of Klutch Sports Group, told ESPN, which first reported the decision. Paul later confirmed the decision to The Associated Press.

LeBron James, Bronny's father and the NBA's all-time scoring leader, posted his reaction on his social media accounts, including one Instagram story that had the simple caption: "BRONNY STAYING IN DRAFT!" The decision was not unexpected, given that Bronny James had given no sign in recent weeks that he would exercise his option of returning to college and postponing his NBA plans.

Bronny James played one year of college basketball at Southern California and averaged 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game last season. He played in 25 games, missing the start of the season after needing a procedure last year to fix what was diagnosed as a congenital heart defect, which was found after he went into cardiac arrest during a summer workout.

A panel of doctors cleared James for NBA play earlier this month.

"I'm just trying to put in the work and see where it takes me," Bronny James said at the NBA draft combine after getting that clearance and taking part in workouts.

Bronny James—who was listed at 6-foot-4 on USC's roster but measured at 6 feet, 1 1/2 inches at the combine—announced his intention of entering the draft in April, with the caveat that he was also going into the transfer portal and maintaining his college eligibility. Early entry candidates for the draft had until 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday to decide whether they would stay in or return to college.

The draft is June 26-27.

LeBron James, who can become a free agent this summer, will be entering his 22nd NBA season this fall. If Bronny James plays in the NBA next season, they would be the first father-son duo in the league simultaneously as players. There have been about 100 instances in NBA history of players joining the league after their fathers played, but none at the same time.

LeBron James said many times in recent years that he would like to play in the league alongside his son, and it certainly remains a possibility that a team that drafts Bronny James might do so with hopes of luring his father to that roster.

"The kid has to do what he wants to do—and I don't even want to say kid no more—the young man will decide what he wants to do and how he wants his career to go," LeBron James said when the Lakers' season ended earlier this spring.

AP

Bronny James talks to media during the 2024 NBA basketball Draft Combine in Chicago, Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

Clippers sign Lue to new deal reportedly worth $14M annually

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers have signed coach Tyronn Lue to a long-term contract after winning a division title in his fourth season.

Clippers President of Basketball Operations Lawrence Frank didn't disclose details in announcing the new deal on Wednesday. ESPN reported that the new contract was worth about $14 million annually through the 2028-29 season, citing unnamed sources.

"T Lue is everything we want in a head coach. He's a brilliant tactician and a natural leader with an extraordinary ability to connect with those around him, both players and staff," Frank said in a statement. "Four years ago, we felt privileged to hire T Lue, and we feel just as fortunate today. There's no one we'd rather coach our team. T Lue is a pillar of the organization and will be for a very long time."

Lue has posted a record of 184-134 in four seasons, including three postseason trips and the franchise's first trip to the Western Conference finals in 2021. The Clippers went 51-31 last season and won the Pacific Division title for the third time in franchise history.

Lue coached Cleveland to the 2016 NBA title with LeBron James, who left for the Lakers in free agency two years later. Lue was gone after an 0-6 start following James' departure from the Cavaliers. He had waved off talk that he might be a candidate for the job coaching James with the Los Angeles Lakers after Dallas ended the Clippers' season in the first round.

"I didn't come in to bounce around, go all over the place," Lue said at the time. "They've all been great to me. Just having a great relationship with the owner, with the front office. It's great. I would love to be here long-term."

Lue was an assistant on Doc Rivers' staff with the Clippers before taking over when Rivers and the club mutually parted ways following the 2019-20 season. Rivers ended up in Philadelphia.

"This is where I want to be. I've loved coaching this team for the past four years and I'm excited to head into a new era at Intuit Dome," Lue. said

Lue was an 11-year NBA veteran as a player, winning championships in 2000 and 2001 with the Lakers.

Brian Keefe will remain coach of Wizards after serving as an interim in that role

The Washington Wizards hired Brian Keefe as their coach on Wednesday, sticking with the man who led the team on an interim basis from late January until the end of the season.

Keefe was in his first season as an assistant coach for the Wizards when he was promoted to interim head coach on Jan. 25, replacing Wes Unseld Jr. Washington was 7-36 at the time of the change and went 8-31 the rest of the way.

"We are excited for Brian to become our next head coach. Brian is a proven motivator and connector of people," Wizards general manager Will Dawkins said in a statement. "As a leader in the organization, he will continue to positively grow and invest into the development of our players. His wealth of experience will help move our team forward as we build for long-term sustained success."

Keefe was an assistant for Oklahoma City when the Thunder reached the NBA Finals in 2012. Keefe joined the Wizards after a couple of seasons with Brooklyn.

"I look forward to continuing to work with our players and helping them grow and develop," Keefe said. "As a team, we are committed to a collaborative approach to build an environment of accountability and hard work that allows us to improve every day."

The Wizards broke up their core—one that wasn't accomplishing much—last offseason when they traded Bradley Beal and Kristaps Porzingis. The result was predictable: Washington finished with a franchise-record 67 losses.

The Wizards have the second pick in the June 26-27 draft, but it's unclear if there's a generational talent available who can expedite Washington's rebuild. So Keefe's return isn't particularly huge news around the league—at least not compared to when the Lakers and Cavaliers eventually fill their coach openings.

Washington hasn't advanced past the second round of the playoffs since 1979. Kyle Kuzma led the Wizards with 22.2 points per game last season, and Jordan Poole can provide occasional scoring bursts. Washington took Bilal Coulibaly with the No. 7 pick in last year's draft.

Now Keefe will have a chance to prepare for a full season in charge instead of being thrust into a head coaching role near the midway point.

"BK did a tremendous job," Poole said shortly after the end of the season. "Credit to him for rallying our guys together through a long season, playing players to their strengths all across our team and keeping guys together. He did a really good job of allowing me to play my true position and play more on ball. So he did a really good job. Credit to him—it was a tough move right away, being in the middle of the season."

Although Washington's record spoke for itself, there were some positive comments about the team's internal culture when players did exit interviews with the media.

"I've never felt closer with a group of guys than I do with these guys," guard Landry Shamet said. "Winning can mask a lot of stuff that's going on in a lot of other organizations. I think it was encouraging to see that there's a real vested interest in building a foundation of community and connectedness here, and that definitely was noticed." ***(AP)***

Mavs' Lively misses Game 4 loss to Wolves

DALLAS (AP)—Mavericks center Dereck Lively II was out of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals with a sprained neck, and Dallas missed a chance to sweep Minnesota, losing 105-100 on Tuesday night.

The Mavs tried to make up for Lively's absence with the return of Maxi Kleber, who had been out with a separated right shoulder since he took a hard fall in the deciding Game 6 of the first-round series against the Los Angeles Clippers on May 3.

Kleber, who wearing a protective sleeve on the shoulder, scored two points in 13 minutes.

"Maxi was really good," coach Jason Kidd said. "He hasn't played in a while, but I thought he was a plus for us and that will only help us as we go forward as we get healthy."

Before the game, Kidd said Lively's condition had improved but he was still sore. The 20-year-old rookie was on the sideline in street clothes. He had been listed as doubtful. Game 5 is Thursday night in Minnesota.

Lively was injured in the second quarter of Dallas' 116-107 Game 3 victory. He avoided the concussion protocol after holding his head while staying down on the court for several minutes.

The first-round draft pick out of Duke has been a big boost inside for the Mavericks, forming a tandem with Daniel Gafford that outplayed Minnesota's big front line of the 7-foot-1 Towns and 7-1 Rudy Gobert while Dallas took a 3-0 lead in the series.

"He's a big piece to our defense and offense, so we miss him a lot," star guard Luka Doncic said.

The Mavs tried seldom-used Dwight Powell as the first substitute for Gafford, the starter. But Powell was pulled after just three minutes and didn't return.

Kleber isn't quite the rim protector or pick-and-roll player that Lively and Gafford are, but offers a solid inside presence. On offense, the Mavs mostly count on Kleber being a threat the 3-point line.

The 32-year-old German was 10 of 18 from deep against the Clippers and is a 40% 3-point shooter in 37 career playoff games. Kleber made a layup in the second quarter but was short on both 3-point attempts.

In his first game this postseason without Lively, Gafford made all six of his shots for 12 points with eight rebounds.

"Dereck has been great," Gafford said. "Last couple of games I haven't been really ready to play, I feel like. I'm letting the team down in a lot of areas. He really helps me motivate myself, because as hard as he's working, I want to be able to do the same thing. So, I got to be better for him."

Athletics: More medal chances in 2024 Micro Games

Northern Marianas Athletics is positive that athletes participating in track and field events in next month's 2024 Micronesian Games will surpass the NMI's medal output from the 2018 edition of the competition.

Head coach Elias Rangamar said that NMA is confident of the team's chances to win more medals in the Marshall Islands and is counting on the group's entries in middle distance and relay races and jump events in delivering the goods for the NMI delegation. During the 2018 Micronesian Games held in Yap, the NMI won two gold medals, four silvers, and six bronzes in the athletics competition.

Zarinae Sapong handed the NMI one of the two gold medals in 2018 when she topped the 200m race, while Rachel Abrams gave the islands the other gold medal in the high jump event. Sapong will lead the NMI Athletics Team in this year's Micro Games and will be joined on the squad by 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games double gold medalist (5,000m and 10K races) Tania Tan. Competing the team are Lia and Kina Rangamar, Maria Quitugua, Cheraline Epity, Casey Cruz, Takeru Jim, Daniel Joab, Alexander Camacho, Bwilitomwar Rangamar, Christopher Cruz, Jared Ayuyu, Lyle Pedro, Pony and Simon Tang, Justin Camacho, Cody Shimizu, Theodore Rodgers, and Douglas Schmidt. Ronald Olopai and Robin Sapong are joining Elias Rangamar on the team officials list.

"Our athletes are in good shape and working very hard in our training sessions. The expectations are high, especially with many of them earning experience when they competed in the 2023 Pacific Games and the Oceania Championships last year, and some are competing in this year's Oceania meet in Fiji. I am confident we will definitely have more medal chances in this year's Micronesian Games," Elias Rangamar said.

The longtime athletics coach is also pleased to share that they have a bunch of high school athletes on the team.

"This is good news, as we really want to discover and train young talents and to them, this experience in the Micro Games in the Marshall Islands is a good training opportunity. Their participation in the Micro Games is also important as we prepare for next year's Pacific Mini Games in Palau," Rangamar said.

The athletics competition in the 2024 Micronesian Games will run from June 19 to 24 and the NMI Athletics Team will be leaving Saipan for the Marshall Islands on June 15 to get a couple of days of training at the newly built Majuro Track and Field Facility.

The NMI Athletics Team is part of the 113-member delegation of Team Marianas, which is supported by the following sponsors: Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J Motors, E-Land Group, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corp., Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Construction, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corp., LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Jose & Ruri Ayuyu Foundation/McDonald's, P&A Corp., Zoom Café, and I Love Saipan. ***(PR)***

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3-6, 0-6. Lee bounced back yesterday though, as she fought her way through three tough sets against Great Britain's Charlotte Perks, 5-3, 1-4, 10-5, in the girls singles consolation semifinals.

Lee will go up against South Korea's Yura Kang in the girls consolation finals.

As for NMI netters, although some advanced to the next round after their games last Wednesday, some fell to tough opponents yesterday. However, NMI's Henry Seungwoo Choi grabbed a win in the boys semifinals consolation match over teammate Matthew Hwang, 4-0, 4-0.

Choi will face off against South Korea's Taekyeom Lee in the boys consolation finals.

The NMI's June Yu was silenced by South Korea's Jun Hyuck Lee, 0-6, 0-6; NMI's Anne Lee faltered against Kang, 2-4, 0-4, in the girls consolation semis; and NMI's Ryan Jeongwoo Choi lost to Taekyeom, 1-4, 1-4, in the boys consolation semis.

Also yesterday, boys/girls doubles matches went underway.

Deng teamed up with Japan's Miku Kitaoka and shut down Takino and Yoshia, 6-2, 6-2.

Aidan paired up with his brother Andre and showed no mercy to South Korea's Geon Hyeok Jeon and Hong Kong's Wan Him Donovan Yim, 6-0, 6-1.

Suzuki and Mao Tazuru drove their way to a win against Jun Hyuck Lee and Jian Pyun, 6-0, 6-3.

Abouhamad was partnered with Japan's Mutsumi Uemura and pulled off a win against Perks and Sekido, 6-0, 6-3.

Dain then bagged a win with partner Nonoka Shimizu, 6-4, 7-5.

South Korea's Kyoungman Kim and Woo Yeon Na took down Australia's Darren Yann Junn Lew and Junhyuk Seo, 6-4, 6-1; and Young Hoon Kim and Gyeom Do won over Daiya Hino and Yik Hin Brandon Wong, 6-1, 6-2.

In other singles matches yesterday, Seo bested Andre in three tough sets, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3; Tazuru locked in against Pyun, 6-1, 6-4; Wan Him Donovan Yim took down Jeon, 6-4, 6-3; and Kyoungman slipped past Shuya Machida, 6-1, 7-5.

Fifty-five junior netters from the NMI, Guam, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Australia, U.S., Great Britain, and Chinese-Taipei are vying for ITF points in the tourney that ends on Sunday, June 2.

An ITF J30 event is a junior event with 30 world ranking points for the winner. Players will play singles and doubles. It is the entry level event for emerging tennis players who are trying to acquire world ranking points to be accepted on the professional tour or win a scholarship to a U.S. college.

The last time an ITF J30 event was held on Saipan was in 2019.

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know and experience the joy of playing soccer. I am looking forward to playing with them and having fun," the 2019 Asian Football Confederation Female Player of the Year added.

Presentation open to public

Besides the clinic, Kumagai will have a presentation on June 7 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, starting at 6pm.

The presentation is dubbed as "The Way of My Life" and will feature the Japanese pro's soccer journey that began with her stint with the Urawa Red Diamonds (2009-2011) in Saitama, Japan all the way to various European clubs, such as FFC Frankfurt (2011-2013), Olympique Lyonnais (2013-2021), FC Bayern Munchen (2021-2023), and her current team, AS Roma. The presentation is open to the public, regardless of club affiliation, while parents, coaches, and other interested individuals are also welcome to come.

"We hope that through this presentation, we will motivate our young players to keep playing soccer and continue to enjoy the game and improve their skills, and also encourage others to join our program. This presentation is also for parents, guardians, and others involved in NMI soccer or any other sport, as their support is very critical in the success of our young athletes," NMIFA acting technical director Konomi Suzuki said.

To register for the presentation, click here https://forms.gle/EwMujEUJKfLX6vu36. ***(PR)***

TEAM

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Team Marianas as he made like Michael Jordan's jersey number and scored 23 points—all without a 3-pointer. Rabauliman, along with Chioni Dela Cruz and Coby Santos, set the tone for the game as they commanded the ball from the get-go.

Bridge Capital's starting five was overpowered quickly and were behind, 15-21, at the end of the first quarter. Before the halftime break, they were down by 13 points, 26-39.

Team Marianas sealed the deal in the second half as Bridge Capital trailed behind by double digits. Dela Cruz went on to score 13 points, while Santos contributed 12.

Bridge Capital's Matt Duenas pumped in 16 markers, while Francisco Mizutani scored 14, and Chris Sanchez put up 11 points.

Then, New Chang Ming fought against a formidable Saints team and won, 69-55.

New Chang Ming and the Saints were neck-and-neck in the first minutes of the game, but the first quarter ended in New Chang Ming's favor by just four points, 12-8.

Both teams took turns at the basket and it was a very close game throughout until the last minutes when New Chang Ming's Ronald Bernardo and Juan Camacho scored the crucial points needed to seal their win.

In the fourth quarter, the Saints were behind by just 8 points. Then, the 3s came in for New Chang Ming as Jeter Medina and Elmer Esdrelon went back-to-back from the outside.

Fast-break plays by Bernardo and Camacho sank in the much-needed points as they also went back-to-back and took the game by 14 points, 69-55.

Bernardo had a game-high 19 points, while Rodel Pastrana contributed 16, and Esdrelon scored 10. For the Saints, Jude Tengco, Leo Galarse, and Trevor Ogumoro all scored 11 markers.

The championship game is set for tomorrow, Saturday, June 1, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Marianas 81 – Rabauliman 23, Dela Cruz 13, Santos 12, Schmidt 10, Aferson 9, Ogumoro 7, Atan 5, Lizama 2.

Bridge Capital 68 – Duenas 16, Mizutani 14, Sanchez 11, Kim 10, Richardson 9, King 8.

Scoring by quarters: 21-15, 39-26, 55-45, 81-68.

New Chang Ming 69 – Bernardo 19, Pastrana 16, Esdrelon 10, Foronda 8, Camacho 6, Devero 3, Medina 3, Baking 2, Diwa 2.

CK Saints 55 – Tengco 11, Galarse 11, Ogumoro 11, Reyes 6, Thongaram 5, Blas 4, Manibusan 4, Aughenbaugh 2, Omelau 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 24-19, 49-41, 69-55.

Rangers sweep World Series rematch over D'backs.

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Top seeds advance in J30 tourney

LEIGH GASES
Girls' No. 3 Dain Lee of the U.S. focuses during a running return in her doubles match in the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

LEIGH GASES
Girls' No. 2 Leanne Abouhamad of Australia smacks a return during her doubles match up in the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

LEIGH GASES
Boys' No. 2, Japan's Eita Suzuki shakes hands with his doubles opponent after their match in the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Top seeds in the boys and girls divisions of the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament advanced to the quarterfinals after their rounds of matches yesterday and last Wednesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

For the boys division yesterday, No. 1 Aidan Lam Meng Bart from the U.S. defeated South Korea's Young Hoon Kim, 6-0, 7-6(5). The boys' No. 2, Japan's Eita Suzuki bested Hong Kong's Yik Hin Brandon Wong, 6-2, 6-0.

In the girls division last Wednesday, No. 1 Peien Deng of China beat Japan's Misaki Sekido, 6-1, 6-4. Then, No. 2 Leanne Abouhamad of Australia took down Japan's Tohko Takino, 7-6, 6-2.

No. 3 Dain Lee, who lived on Saipan until she was 12, lost to Japan's Aoi Yoshida,

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Team Marianas, New Chang Ming in Mich Cup finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMIBF
Team Marianas' Antoni Ogumoro goes for a jumper during their semis game against Bridge Capital in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Marianas and New Chang Ming secured their spots in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup finals after defeating their foes last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team Marianas retained their undefeated run as they punched their ticket to the finals after they beat Bridge Capital, 81-68, in the semis.

A fly in from Oklahoma, Antoni Ogumoro took to the basketball court for the first time in a while and helped Team Marianas into the finals. He scored 7 points and his 6'5 frame allowed him to loom over Bridge Capital shooters.

Marvin Rabauliman led

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World Cup champion Kumagai to share pitch with NMI players

The NMI's young female players will get a rare chance to share the soccer pitch with the Japan Women's National Team player that hit the game-winner in their penalty shootout win over the powerhouse United States in the 2011 World Cup in Germany.

World Cup champion and many-time Japan Women's National Team captain Saki Kumagai will be in town from June 6 to 10 to hold a soccer clinic and do a presentation with the NMI soccer community. Kumagai, who played for various pro clubs in the European league and is now with the 2023-24 Serie A and the 2023-24 Coppa Italia champion AS Roma, will be conducting a clinic on June 8 at the NMI Soccer Training Center, from 9am to 11:30am. The clinic, which the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is organizing, will be divided into two sessions with the first one, from 9am to10am reserved for girls U12 players. The second session will run from 10:30am to 11:30am and is for girls U16 players.

"I want to enjoy playing soccer while interacting with the children in NMI. I also want to refresh myself in the great nature before heading to the Olympics," said Kumagai, who will suit up anew for the Japan Women's National Team as they compete in the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris.

"My main goal in conducting the soccer clinic in the NMI is to let the children

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USA TODAY PHOTO
Japan defender Saki Kumagai (4) plays the ball against USA forward Alex Morgan (13) during a game at the Geodis Park in Nashville, Tennessee, in this undated file photo.